

W. German envoy arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A senior West German official arrived in Damascus Friday for talks with Syrian leaders on efforts to free two West Germans held hostage by pro-Iranian extremists. Informed German sources said Heinz Fiedler, head of the Bonn Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, was to meet with Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara on the captives. Mr. Fiedler will also discuss the crisis in the Gulf, the general Middle East situation and bilateral issues during his two-day visit. The sources said he was also scheduled to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries with Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Karam. The German envoy was met at Damascus airport by Hisham Kahaleh, head of the Syrian Foreign Ministry's Western Europe Department, and other officials. Mr. Fiedler arrived in Damascus three days after kidnappers showing hostage Alfred Schmidt pleading with the Bonn government to free a suspected Lebanese hijacker in return for their freedom. But German Justice Ministry officials in Bonn later said the Lebanese, Mohammad Ali Hamadi, 23, would stand trial as planned.

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1 in 3 Israelis wants to expel Arabs

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Nearly one-third of Israelis support the removal of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to a poll published on Friday in the Ma'ariv daily newspaper. Forty per cent of Israelis said they opposed the idea. The poll, taken in July by the Media in Ezrachi Institute, was prompted by controversial calls from retired General Yehonatan Ze'evi and the right-wing deputy defense minister, Michael Dekel, for West Bank and Gaza to be transferred to Jordan or other Arab countries. Thirty-one per cent of the respondents said they supported the idea. A further 25 per cent said they were undecided. A similar poll published in Ma'ariv in July showed 20.4 per cent of Israelis favored the mass expulsion of Arabs from the West Bank.

Large Israeli group to meet PLO leaders

TEL AVIV (AP) — A delegation of 35 Israeli leftists are to meet with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and other members of the PLO, the groups leader said Friday. The delegation, which would be the largest ever to meet with senior PLO leaders, will travel to Geneva on Sept. 7, said Uzi Burshtin, a member of the Communist Party who heads the group. They are to confer with Mr. Arafat at a United Nations conference on the Palestinian problem, he said. Participants could face criminal charges and a maximum three-year sentence if convicted of violating a 1986 law banning unauthorized meetings between Israelis and "terrorist" organizations.

Suspect killed in Egyptian shootout

CAIRO (AP) — The prime suspect in a failed attempt to assassinate a former cabinet minister was killed Friday in a shootout with police at a Nile Delta village, the government said. A statement from the Interior Ministry identified the dead man as Muhammad Kazem Abdul Kawy, 26, a driver. The ministry earlier had described him as the top suspect in a shooting attack from a speeding car on the house of Nabawy Ismail, a former interior minister, in the Cairo residential district of Al Mohandessin on Aug. 13. Mr. Ismail was unhurt, but two people on the street outside the house were injured.

Director John Huston dies

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — John Huston, a colourful, hard-driving director who made some of Hollywood's finest films including "The Maltese Falcon" and "The Treasure of Sierra Madre," died Friday at the age of 81, associates said. He died in his sleep of natural causes at an apartment he was renting here for the filming of "Mr. North" which is being directed by his son Danny and stars his academy award-winning daughter, Angelica. Mr. Huston was one of Hollywood's most outstanding directors, achieving with status almost overnight with his first film in 1941, "The Maltese Falcon," one of the classics of the American screen.

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S. Arabia gets tough, vows not to back down in confronting Iran

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia got tough with Iran on Friday, telling the Tehran leadership to "put up or shut up" in their confrontation across the Gulf.

"We will not let them get away with things any more," an authoritative Saudi source told reporters, adding that Saudis had been ready to go to war following the July 31 Mecca violence which killed hundreds after a demonstration by Iranian pilgrims. "The Iranians had better put up or shut up," he said in an unusually tough comment. "They have pushed us beyond our tolerance level and after that anything goes."

The source, who was not identified, added: "After Mecca we are ready to go as far as they want... there can be no compromise on our faith and our security."

Saudi Arabia said 402 people, including 275 Iranian pilgrims, were killed at Mecca, blaming the Iranian pilgrims for the incident. Tehran blamed the United States and Saudi Arabia and claimed the Iranian death toll had been much

higher. The source said that the Saudi armed forces have stayed on a heightened state of alert since the violence.

In unusually forthright comment from such an authoritative Saudi source, he said Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was "fair game for us now."

"Khomeini built a mystique with his white beard and black robe... and he seduced the Western media and leadership. We stayed away from this guy too long. We built a monster that now we must kick down."

Saudi Arabia put its armed forces on maximum alert hours after the Mecca riots and kept them there for two or three days until intercepted Iranian military communications showed Iran did not intend to attack, the source revealed. They are still on heightened alert, he added.

account of Saudi confrontations with Iran, said that Riyadh had also alerted its whole air force in 1984 after an Iranian F-5 fighter bomber was shot down when it intruded into Saudi airspace (See page 2).

The source said Saudi Arabia would seek the support of Islamic scholars and religious leaders, including Shi'ites, across the world in a widening diplomatic drive against Iran.

The source said Iran had refused to let a Saudi doctor see a wounded Saudi diplomat, blocked repeated requests to let him fly home, and at one point kept him in an ambulance at Tehran airport for seven hours. "I think he died then," the source said.

He said his country had delayed breaking diplomatic relations with Iran to explore the possibility of joint action by Arab and Muslim countries.

"Ummunim is preferable but not necessary," he said. Saudi Arabia, he added, was encouraged by this week's Arab League resolution which said Arab countries would review

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Manila reasserts control after fierce coup attempt

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippine military said Friday it had regained control of all positions in Manila seized by rebel troops in the bloodiest coup attempt of President Corazon Aquino's 18-month rule.

Fighters, armoured vehicles and artillery were used in a bitter day's fighting, the heaviest seen in Manila since World War II.

Military spokesmen said loyal troops were neutralising remaining pockets of resistance in Camp Aguinaldo, the army headquarters held by rebels for much of the day, after artillery and air force planes pounded the dissidents in a mid-afternoon offensive.

The spokesmen told reporters 200 rebels occupying a hotel near the government television station had surrendered and others had left Villamor Philippine air force base.

"We are about to finish the whole thing I believe," army spokesman Colonel Honesto Isla said.

Mrs. Aquino was safe, but her only son, Benigno III, was seriously wounded and three companions were killed when their car was riddled with gunfire near the presidential palace shortly after the attack began early Friday.

Military and hospital sources said at least 25 people were killed and 275 wounded. The dead included two news photographers — a New Zealander and a Filipino — and numerous civilians caught in cross-fire.

After daylong fighting Friday, government forces regained control of the half dozen installations rebels seized, including four television stations, part of an air base and Camp Aguinaldo in suburban Quezon City.

But rebels appeared to be entrenched in Cebu City, the country's second major urban area 560 kilometres south of Manila. Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos said "mopping up operations" continued, and he expected to restore full order to the capital by

Saturday. He claimed 350 mutineers had surrendered.

"We are quite confident that we shall be able to bring normalcy to the metro Manila area by early morning," General Ramos said.

The whereabouts of mutiny leader Colonel Gregorio Honasan were not known. Military officials claimed Col. Honasan, a key figure in the 1986 mutiny that led to the downfall of former President Ferdinand Marcos, had fled Camp Aguinaldo by helicopter before government forces attacked.

"I have nothing to say to these traitors," Mrs. Aquino said on television of the rebel troops.

There was still a question mark over the situation in Cebu, where soldiers in three military camps declared support for the rebels. A Reuters reporter there said. Geo. Ramos fired the Cebu area constabulary commander, Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, after hearing of his support

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Talks continue over Italian prison crisis

ROME (Agencies) — Prosecutors negotiating with convicted murderers holding 21 people hostage in an island prison reported Friday that they were having a "good dialogue" in an attempt to end the four-day siege.

They said the rebel inmates were still demanding a helicopter to escape Elba with two hostages. "But we are waiting for an act of good will and hope good sense will prevail," said Giacomo Randon, one of the three prosecutors engaged in telephone talks with the inmates armed with pistols and knives.

"We had a good dialogue, and given the circumstances, we have an atmosphere that is conducive to dialogue," he told two Italian reporters on Elba. He did not elaborate.

Authorities have insisted that the inmates first release their only woman hostage, 29-year-old social worker, Rossella Giuzzi.

Outside the prison, a group of people gathered under a banner, "A Helicopter for Life," to collect signatures for a petition to urge the government to accept the inmates' demand. An organiser said 500 people already have signed the petition.

The convicts, led by right-wing extremist Mario Tuti, are armed with guns, knives and explosives and have regularly soaked their captives in petrol and threatened to set them alight.

Mysterious 'convoys' are part of U.S. build-up in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Two reflagged Kuwaiti tankers were waiting outside the Gulf for the U.S. navy to escort them through the perilous Strait of Hormuz while other reports indicated that mysterious "convoys" camouflaged by sandstorms that have swept the Gulf in recent days might have been American warships deploying in a naval build-up in the region.

The sandstorms sharply cut visibility over the Gulf and added to conflicting reports on Friday as to whether a new convoy of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and U.S. warships — the fourth upbound and sixth overall since July 20 — was en route to Kuwait.

Shipping sources quoted by Reuters in a dispatch from Kuwait said the 81,263-tonne Surf City and the 79,999-tonne Chesapeake City, both reflagged product carriers, were waiting for the American navy to escort them through Hormuz.

The convoy is the fourth of its kind since the United States began protecting Kuwaiti tankers, last month and the U.S. navy has kept its planned movement secret to protect it from Iranian attack. High seas and blowing sand delayed their departure earlier this week but the sources said weather conditions had improved.

Ten Kuwaiti tankers now fly the U.S. flag to qualify for American naval protection. The eleventh and last such tanker, the

290,085-tonne Middletown, was in the Mediterranean sailing for the convoy assembly point off the United Arab Emirates port of Khor Fakkan, the sources said. It will enter the Gulf separately or as part of another convoy.

Meanwhile three tankers that arrived in Kuwait last week, as part of a previous convoy, are expected to finish loading on Saturday for the return trip out of the Gulf, the sources added.

They said the 294,739-tonne products tanker Townsend had finished loading and was taking on bunker at a sea island terminal off Kuwait's main oil port of Mina Al Ahmadi.

One of two gas carriers, the Gas Queen and Gas Princess, had loaded and the other would finish loading Saturday, the sources added. They said they would probably sail back down the Gulf with the U.S. warship escorts of the Surf City and Chesapeake City when they reach Kuwait.

Unexplained activity in the Gulf could have been warships preparing to rendezvous with the former trio in international waters off Kuwait's loading terminal, other sources quoted by AP suggested. The navy as a matter of policy refuses to divulge ship locations or movements.

Weather conditions generally improved in the northern Gulf on Friday, but dust and haze continued over southern sections, meteorologists said.

Iran to formally inform U.N. of its partial acceptance of ceasefire call

OSLO (Agencies) — Iran will tell the U.N. formally next week that it approves of parts of a Gulf war ceasefire call, but maintains some parts are unacceptable, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Moshataba Mirmehdi said Friday.

He said Tehran would not officially accept the July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution urging Iran and Iraq to conclude a formal ceasefire.

He told a news conference while on a visit to Oslo: "We do not accept the resolution, but we do not reject it completely. That is what we shall tell the United Nations."

Mr. Mirmehdi's comments while on a visit to discuss the Gulf situation with Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg were the first indications of an Iranian response.

"There are some positive points in this resolution, they could be a good start," Mr. Mirmehdi said, speaking through an interpreter.

"But there is one paragraph that stipulates that the superpowers should keep away from the region. Unfortunately, the United States was the first country that violated it."

"But the most significant shortage to the resolution is the intention given to the Iranian demands to condemn the aggression," he said.

Earlier, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Larjani told a news conference in Bonn that Iran wanted to "consolidate the de facto ceasefire in the Gulf."

His statement was taken as an indication that Tehran could give

a positive official response. The U.N. has declined comments on his remarks.

On Friday, Iraq signalled that it might soon resume its attacks on Iranian targets unless Tehran acceded to the U.N. call for an end to hostilities.

Iran and Iraq have paused in their seven-year-old shooting war since the United States began massing large forces in the Gulf to escort tankers flying the U.S. flag.

Norwegian government officials said Mr. Mirmehdi had asked to visit Norway, which has a financial stake in 20 per cent of Gulf shipping, and that he had delivered a message to Mr. Stoltenberg.

They declined to give details, but Mr. Mirmehdi said he had asked Norway to intercede with NATO allies to get them to stay out of the Gulf.

"We asked them to appeal to their friends to withdraw," he said. "Norway is a friendly country."

Government sources said Mr. Stoltenberg had requested Iran to stop harassing ships in the Gulf and to accept the U.N. resolution, number 598.

Mr. Mirmehdi's visit, timed with that of his colleague Larjani to Bonn, looked like a concerted effort by Iran to bolster the country's image in Europe ahead of its reply to the U.N., Western diplomats said.

Bonn has used its traditionally good relations with Iran to help mediate as one of the current non-permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

'De facto ceasefire'

Speaking at a news conference after talks with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Mr. Larjani said Iran was willing to take part in "any authentic peace efforts."

"Iran wants to consolidate the de facto ceasefire in the Gulf," Mr. Larjani said.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar declined comment on Mr. Larjani's statement.

The U.N. Press Secretary Francois Guiliani said his chief was "not going to comment on statements."

He said Mr. Perez de Cuellar stood by what he said on Thursday, "which is that he is expecting a reply (from Iran) next week."

The U.N. Security Council's July 20 resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire between Iran and Iraq also urged them to cooperate with Mr. Perez de Cuellar's mediation efforts.

In Bonn, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said West Germany had urged Iran to invite Mr. Perez de Cuellar to Tehran and set a firm date for a visit.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said on Thursday he had a standing invitation from the Iranians but saw no need to go to Tehran and both they and the Iraqis preferred to talk to him in New York.

On Thursday, Mr. Larjani rejected an Arab League ultimatum that Tehran accept the ceasefire call or risk a break in relations with Arab states.

Mr. Larjani told a news conference in Rome the countries of the region could not survive with-

out relations with Iran and threats would not produce peace.

"We don't think stability and security in the region can be obtained through threats... it should be obtained by political means," Mr. Larjani said.

The Arab League meeting in Tunis on Tuesday gave Iran until Sept. 20 to accept the Security Council ceasefire call and its Secretary General Chadi Klibi said he did not rule out a break in diplomatic relations if Tehran failed to respond. Iraq has conditionally agreed to the U.N. call.

Ismat Kittani, the Iraqi delegate to the U.N., told a news conference on Thursday that his government's assessment was that Iranian "stalling" meant they had no intention of accepting the council resolution.

Mr. Kittani said the council should move at once to the next step of invoking sanctions against Iran.

Mr. Kittani said the Security Council should meet again to consider enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter to ensure Iran's compliance with its resolution.

It was up to the members to decide those measures, but an arms embargo against Iran was one option, he said.

The U.S. has been canvassing prospects for an arms ban but there are doubts in diplomatic circles that this would pass. One Western European member put the chances at no more than 50-50.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said on

(Continued on page 3)

Libya reports recapturing Aouzou

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya on Friday said it had recaptured the fiercely contested and strategic desert outpost of Aouzou, saying it had "destroyed and expelled" Chadian forces.

"After all political and diplomatic solutions failed, Libyan troops were ordered to occupy Aouzou," the Libyan news agency JANA reported from the Libyan capital. "The Libyan army now controls Aouzou completely after having destroyed and expelled the enemy."

The brief dispatch said the fighting lasted for two hours but gave no other details about the reported takeover.

The state-run Libyan news agency also broadcast the announcement and congratulated the military "for what they did this morning."

Independent confirmation of the announcement was not immediately available.

The Chadian embassy in Paris said Aouzou and other towns were coming under intensive air attacks but said the ground was calm and did not confirm that Aouzou had fallen.

The embassy said, however, that Chad expects a large-scale offensive from Libya "at any moment."

Aouzou is the main town in a strip of land along Chad's northern frontier annexed by Libya in 1973. Chad said it captured the town Aug. 8.

President Hissene Habre's army routed the Libyans from the rest of northern Chad in March, and he has vowed to retake the Aouzou Strip, said to be rich in uranium and other minerals.

But since the Chadian victory there, Libya has mounted steady air raids on Aouzou and other reconquered northern towns.

"We are waiting at any moment for a large-scale offensive from the Libyan aggressors," said a statement issued by the Chad embassy. It said Libya was bombing Aouzou as well as Bardai, Wour and Ounianga-Kebir, south of the strip.

The embassy appealed for "urgent" material support from its friends.

France, Chad's former colonial ruler, maintains an estimated 1,500 troops in Chad. France

provided logistic and material help for the reconquering of most of northern Chad but has consistently said the Aouzou question should be decided through international arbitration.

Libya claims sovereignty over the Aouzou Strip, citing a World War II treaty between France and Italy. When the accord was signed, Chad was a French colony and Libya was ruled by Italy.

Italy never ratified the agreement and France invalidated it.

Friday's Libyan announcement came on the same day that Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the current head of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) who is seeking to mediate between Chad and Libya, left Tripoli after consultations with Muammar Qadhafi.

Mr. Kaunda arrived here Thursday after a round of talks with Chadian officials in the capital of N'djamena.

The reported capture of Aouzou came after two unsuccessful Libyan offensives to retake Aouzou and its surrounding areas this month.

Moscow studying 'small print' in Kohl offer

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A Soviet spokesman said Friday that 72 nuclear warheads stationed in West Germany were a "devil in the details" of the superpower arms agreement being negotiated in Geneva.

Senior Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Genady I. Gerasimov said the fate of the hoped-for summit this fall between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev depended on whether these details could be worked out.

"If they (the arms negotiators) are successful enough in chasing out the devil in the details of the treaty then everything is possible," Gerasimov said in a television interview from Moscow with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

He welcomed West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's readiness to dismantle the 72 Pershing IA missiles stationed in German soil but said their warheads, which are owned by the United States, must also go.

This, he said, was "the devil in the details." There was "small print" in Dr. Kohl's offer "and we are studying the small print," he said.

He added: "We are talking, as I understand, about zero (warheads) and 72 doesn't equal zero."

You cannot be a little bit virgo, you must be virgo all the way."

When the interviewer suggested Moscow was "pouring cold water" on what seemed to be encouraging developments, Gerasimov said: "Where is the cold water? No, we are very pleased to see these developments; we are only saying it is not yet the end of the road."

Asked whether a summit was likely in October in November, Gerasimov said: "It depends on the political will. If you ask me, our political will is with us."

In the past five days, Gerasimov has denied reports that Mr. Gorbachev planned to attend the United Nations General Assembly session in New York late next month, meet Mr. Reagan in Washington, travel to California or make a tour of South America.

The reports have coincided with apparent progress towards a treaty banning superpower medium-range nuclear missiles, which Moscow says must be virtually ready for signing for a third Gorbachev-Reagan summit to take place.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz are due to try to iron out remaining differences on the accord when they meet in Washington

from Sept. 15-17.

According to NATO diplomats the West German offer to scrap its Pershing-IAs means the next few weeks will show whether the superpowers have the political will to clinch a historic nuclear arms deal.

They said the announcement by Dr. Kohl appeared to remove the last major obstacle in the way of a deal between the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate medium-range nuclear weapons.

"In the next few weeks, it should now be possible to see if the political will exists for an agreement. The chances ought to improve significantly," one senior European diplomat said.

"The Russians asked for it and they got it," said another. "This really puts them on the spot."

On Thursday the Soviet Union said Mr. Reagan had failed to clarify the U.S. position on the subject of West Germany's Pershing-IAs in a speech it attacked as anti-Soviet.

In his first comment on Dr. Kohl's statement Gerasimov told reporters on Thursday:

"Of course, after this statement by Chancellor Kohl, the situation has changed for the better."

Eagleton to return to Syria

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration announced Friday Ambassador William Eagleton would return to Syria in the next few days in what it called a response to recent moves by Damascus to reduce alleged Syrian support for "terrorism." But U.S. officials said Mr. Eagleton's return did not mean there were any immediate plans to lift sanctions imposed last year to punish Syria for its alleged involvement in "terrorism." "The United States has decided to return Ambassador William Eagleton to Syria in the next few days," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said. "The return of the ambassador is a major response to positive steps the Syrians have undertaken," she said. "Our information shows a decrease in levels of Syrian support for terrorist activities." U.S. officials, following a visit to Damascus last month by the United States' U.N. ambassador, Vernon Walters, had indicated last week that Mr. Eagleton's return probably was imminent but Friday's announcement made it official. Oakley, who did not give an exact date for Mr. Eagleton's return, said the positive Syrian steps included the expulsion of Palestinian extremist leader Abu Nidal and his group from Damascus and Syria's efforts to free American hostage Charles Glass.

Israel says 3 resistance groups held

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank have arrested three groups of Palestinians accused of carrying out 11 attacks for the Fateh movement in the last two years, Israeli sources said Friday.

They said the groups from the villages of Khabatayeh and Jahba, near the northern town of Jenin, had planted roadside car bombs and thrown fire bombs and a hand grenade.

The targets included roads leading to Israeli army bases and Arabs suspected of collaborating with the occupation forces.

In all cases, the bombs had been discovered and defused without causing damage.

The sources did not say how many suspects had been arrested but said weapons had been seized.

Meanwhile, an Israeli court on Friday remanded Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein in custody for eight days after police handed in a secret file of evidence alleging hostile activity against the Jewish state, legal sources said.

Mr. Hussein, 46, who was released in July from a period of detention without trial, is regarded by Israel as a key figure in the Fateh movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He was arrested for questioning on Wednesday but has not been charged so far.

In other developments a bomb exploded Thursday in a parked Israeli bus, seriously injuring a Palestinian driver from the occupied Gaza Strip, police said.

They said they did not know who planted the bomb near the driver's seat. The driver was rushed to hospital.

An Israeli military court in Nablus on Thursday sentenced two 15-year-old Palestinians to three and a half years in jail for allegedly throwing petrol bombs and stones at Israeli vehicles, the Iltm news agency reported.

Several Soviet-made rockets fired from southern Lebanon exploded in northern Israel on Thursday, but caused no injuries or damages, an army official said.

The official refused to elaborate. He spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with military regulation.

Israel Radio said three Katyusha rockets were fired, but would not say where they hit the ground.

Lebanese block streets, seize food in West Beirut bread riots

BEIRUT (R) — Angry Lebanese blocked streets with burning tyres and seized food trucks in Beirut's southern suburbs Friday as protests against poverty and hunger spread to new areas of the divided capital.

Witnesses said travellers were forced to walk to the airport two kilometres further south because many roads in the suburbs were closed to traffic.

"People driving along this road to catch flights are the ones with dollars," one man said. "We will continue to block roads until we have a solution."

Protests against spiralling prices prompted by the steady fall in the value of the Lebanese pound began in mainly Muslim west Beirut Thursday and quickly degenerated into a riot.

Syrian and Lebanese forces fired their rifles into the air to stop enraged youths from storming the Central Bank. Other youths looted foreign exchange shops and made off with cash.

But in the Muslim sector's cen-

tral commercial areas Friday, fresh demonstrations passed off peacefully.

Witnesses said hundreds of Syrian troops were placed on alert and braced to intervene if violence erupted once more.

A two-year-old hoisted on his father's shoulders and gnawing at a piece of bread led hundreds of marchers through Barbar district, chanting slogans against hunger and Lebanon's Christian president, Amin Gemayel.

"Hey, Amin. Hey, thief you should be pelted with shoes," they chanted. "We want to eat."

The pound has lost more than 71 per cent of its international value this year, while the cost of many consumer goods has risen 300 per cent over the past eight months.

The average monthly wage has fallen to \$24 from \$85 this time last year and from \$800 in 1977.

Beggars picking their way through rubbish tips are commonplace, people line up for food parcels at relief agencies and there are frequent fist-fights in long queues at bakeries.

The Central Bank abstained again Friday from posting the pound's closing price, but dealers said the once-sturdy currency was being traded unofficially at between 275.00 and 285.00 to the dollar. It stood at 33.00 to the dollar on Aug. 27 last year.

Some residents in west Beirut blame Mr. Gemayel and other hardline Falangists living in relatively affluent east Beirut for what they say is an economic war of attrition.

Militant Falangists across the green line divide say neighbouring Syria is stopping opposition leaders from reaching an agreement with them on how to cope with the crisis.

There was no sign of any demonstrations in east Beirut Friday despite west Beirut radio broadcast calling for a "revolution of the hungry and poor."

Banking sources blame the pound's collapse on political deadlock, a weak government and 12 years of civil war.

Sbi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen were seen dismantling barricades on some southern Beirut streets.

Militiamen fired their Kalashnikov rifles into the air to scatter rioters roaming the area.

Witnesses said two cars had been overturned to block the main airport road while boys — some of them only 10 years old — set tyres ablaze.

Other youths stopped trucks and distributed the contents — mainly meat and fruit — to local residents.

"A long time ago people said getting to the moon was an impossible mission," said 23-year-old Hussein. "Now it's not half as difficult as getting the pound down to earth again."

Iran considers shifting military strategy

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Iran is seriously considering shifting its military strategy away from traditional large-scale ground offensives against Iraq.

According to Iranian sources and Western observers in Tehran, the country's Supreme Defence Council is exploring alternatives that include: heightened guerrilla actions by Revolutionary Guards behind enemy lines, increased support for opposition elements in Iraq, and sabotage campaign directed at Iraq's main Gulf supporter, Kuwait.

An Iranian journalist confirms that some of the 11 Defence Council members have said they would oppose any new economic restrictions that might result from an increase in military spending. Several members of parliament insisted their constituents couldn't take any further lowering of their standard of living.

Parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani recently said that last year Iran mobilised 500 battalions at a cost of \$3 billion. Cutting Iraq in two by occupying the Baghdad-Basra highway would require a force four times that size, he said. "This would be much more expensive and could provoke a new rise in (prices) that might dissuade poor people from supporting the Islamic regime," he said.

"Iran has realised in recent months that it cannot topple (President) Saddam (Hussein), and that fighting at the war front is of limited use," said Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's war information office, in a recent interview.

Some European diplomats in Tehran consider that talk suggesting a lull in the ground fighting may be intentionally "leaked" by the Iranians in an attempt to catch the Iraqis off guard for a new offensive.

Others believe that Iran has already committed itself not to launch any large military offensives in coming months. These diplomats believe that Iran gave a promise to the Soviet Union earlier this month in return for Soviet help in current U.N. Security Council deliberations on the Iran-Iraq war.

An Iranian official, who insists that the Iraqi government's downfall remains Iran's goal, says that new war tactics will include greater support for the hit-and-run raids that Revolutionary Guards have launched inside Iraq since last December. The raids have been carried out on the northern front with the help of Kurdish opponents of the Iraqi regime and in the south with the aid of Iraqi Islamic fundamentalists based in Iran. Independent observers have not yet been able to assess the effectiveness of those attacks.

Saudis alerted whole air force in 1984 show-down with Iran

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (R) — Saudi Arabia alerted its entire air-force in a 1984 show-down with Iran and last year sent its navy on Gulf escort duties to keep its oil lifeline open, an authoritative Saudi source said Friday.

Giving the first detailed account of Saudi confrontations with Iran, the source said when an Iranian F-5 fighter-bomber intruded into Saudi air space in 1984: "We warned them once, we warned them twice and then we shot down the plane."

He said the confrontation spiralled rapidly as both sides ordered up more warplanes. "The Iranians sent up eight, we sent up 15, then they had 20. By the end we had 25 F-15s and 18 F-5s in the air... and we had planes heading east from Tobuk and other air bases."

"Then we heard one command from the Iranians to their pilots — RTB, return to base."

"After that we didn't detect a single plane taking off from their airbase at Bushehr for months," he added.

The source said another eye-balling showdown occurred in May last year — and again the Iranians blinked.

"Mobil (the U.S. oil company) came to us and said they won't lift Saudi crude any more because three of their ships had been attacked in a week," the source said. "For us, that is as if Iran blocked the Gulf."

He said Saudi naval units in the Red Sea were sent to Oman, with the agreement of the Omani government.

"Frigates, missile boats, we moved the AWACS (airborne warning and control systems) south, mobilised the air force and started escorting our ships from (the Strait of) Hormuz to our ports."

Saudi Arabia simultaneously sent a warning to Iran, delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa — "Come close and we shoot you down."

He said Iran's reply, also forwarded through Syria, was conciliatory.

"We left the flotilla there for a week."

The source said launches manned by Iranian Revolutionary Guards had never challenged Saudi warships. "The (water-)ski boats don't want to know."

In the past, Saudi Arabia had not publicised such incidents. "We were happy not to let them lose face," the kingdom, he said, had not sought confrontation with Iran, but had not shrunk from them. "Push them to the brink and they back down."

He indicated Saudi Arabia might have responded if Kuwait had asked for Saudi help in defending its tankers rather than asking protection from the United States and the Soviet Union.

"If they had come to us, there might have been a different response... But each country has the right to make its own decision for its national security," he said.

Envoys: Iran planned Mecca riots for years

Meanwhile in Bonn, Saudi Arabia's ambassador said Iran had planned violent demonstrations in the Muslim city of Mecca for several years before last month's clashes, aiming to destabilise the government.

Saudi authorities say 402 people died, including 85 Saudi police and citizens, 275 Iranian pilgrims and 42 pilgrims from other countries in the violence outside the Muslim world's holiest shrine on July 31.

"The Iranians were preparing it for seven or eight years. These

provocations happen every year. The difference is that this time they overstepped the mark," Ambassador Abbas Ghazawi told a news conference.

"The motive was destructive — to harm our state."

Mr. Ghazawi reaffirmed previous Saudi assertions that security forces did not open fire on pilgrims demonstrating in Mecca against the United States and other Western countries.

The protesters, he said, were trampled to death.

Iran says more than 300 of its pilgrims were killed when Saudi police attacked them with automatic weapons, gas, sticks and stones.

Mr. Ghazawi, speaking in the presence of six Arab ambassadors and representatives of the Arab League and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), showed a film of Iranians with banners of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini tearing into Saudi police, hitting them with clubs.

The five-minute Arabic film, dubbed by a translator into German, also showed pilgrims running backwards in panic. It did not give any indication of the police using force.

Mr. Ghazawi said police managed to quell the demonstration within 30 minutes thanks to their experience at handling the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the cooperation of other pilgrims and to "the grace of God."

The film showed Saudi customs officers demonstrating how many Iranians were carrying bags with explosives embedded into the wooden base. "These had to be military-made. They were not amateur," the ambassador said.

He said Saudi officials had unsuccessfully tried to discuss with Iran the possibility of trouble, which he said had been growing every year.

Runcie encouraged by report on Waite

LONDON (AP) — The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Robert Runcie, said Friday he was encouraged by the latest report that kidnapped Church of England envoy Terry Waite is alive and well.

Returning from a U.S. vacation, Runcie told reporters at Heathrow Airport, "I'm very happy to hear a good source saying it again."

Runcie, spiritual head of the Church of England, was commenting on a British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) TV report from Tehran Thursday which quoted an authoritative Iranian source as

ridiculing reports that Mr. Waite was dead or in Iran and saying the 48-year-old envoy was well and in captivity in Lebanon.

Runcie said the BBC account "confirms impressions which we already have from our own reports."

Mr. Waite vanished last January in Beirut where he was negotiating for the release of Westerners held hostage by Islamic fundamentalists.

The BBC said that despite Mr. Waite's reported links to former White House aide Col. Oliver North, his captors did not regard him as an American spy.

Report: Mossad meddles in Israeli politics

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli magazine, citing the accounts of current and former agents, accuses the Mossad intelligence service of meddling too much in the nation's politics.

The article in the monthly issue of "Mofet," an advance copy of which was made available to the Associated Press on Thursday, said a number of major errors had resulted.

According to the report, one of the Mossad's most serious recent blunders was bringing about Israel's three-year occupation of South Lebanon which began with an invasion in June 1982.

"If the Mossad had concentrated on information gathering only... maybe there would have been no Lebanon war," the report said.

"What happened in the Lebanon war proves a lax control over the services, the mixing of politics with work."

The Mossad has no press spokesman, and the Israeli Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the article.

Major scandals have involved two other Israeli intelligence agencies in the past year.

One involved the Shin Bet secret service, the agency responsible for Israel's internal security. Investigations of its practices were launched after revelations that its agents beat to death two Palestinians during interrogation and the fabrication of evidence against a former Israeli army captain.

Iran 'working for' German hostages' release

BONN (R) — Iran is negotiating for the release of two West Germans held hostage in Lebanon, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani said Friday.

Mr. Larjani met West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to discuss the abduction of businessmen Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes, who were abducted in mainly Muslim west Beirut in January.

"We are... mediating between those who are holding them and Germany," Mr. Larjani told reporters. "It is a very sensitive situation."

"We are dealing with a problem where people's lives are involved. Those holding the hostages are very emotional and want their grievances heard. Lebanon is a no-man's land, and it is very difficult to get a line of connection, to have a dialogue back and forth."

Mr. Larjani's words marked the first time a government official had said that the two men were held in Lebanon.

Mr. Genscher, in a statement issued after the talks, thanked

Iranian troops who entered Turkey returned

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey on Wednesday returned to their country a group of armed Iranian troops who were captured three days ago in the south-east after they crossed into Turkish territory.

Nazim Berger, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, told the Associated Press that the Iranians were driven to the border post near Semdinli in Hakkari province, Turkey's south eastern tip where Turkish, Iranian, and Iraqi borders meet, and were handed over to the Iranian authorities.

Mr. Berger said it was understood that 95 Iranian militia men made the crossing into Turkey by mistake.

However, Turkish newspaper reports on Wednesday asserted that the armed Iranians had entered Turkey intentionally on their way to Iraq to provide support for Kurdish rebels.

Iran fights propaganda war on its own terms

TEHRAN (R) — Anti-Western Iran has been fighting a major war on the media front — to woo the Western press. But it largely called the shots.

Concerned at being portrayed as a fanatical Muslim regime, railing at the rest of the world, Tehran launched a big public relations drive this month to try to alter its image.

More than 60 foreign journalists from 20 countries, including five European and U.S. television crews, flew in. It was the largest media gathering here since February when 100 journalists arrived to report on Iran's Gulf war drive towards the Iraqi city of Basra.

Almost all European and American news organisations based in Tehran have quit since the 1979 revolution.

The 60 journalists, mostly British, were invited this time mainly to hear Iran's version of how hundreds of Iranian pilgrims died during riots in the Muslim holy city of Mecca on July 31. They

Iran fights propaganda war on its own terms

were also shown Iran's minesweeping operations in the Gulf area.

The invited reporters and cameramen saw about 2,000 people, carrying the coffins of 32 Mecca victims, march through Tehran before converging on the former United States embassy building to chant anti-U.S., Israeli, Saudi Arabian and Soviet slogans.

The press party attended news conferences on the Mecca riots by the president of the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the representative in Mecca of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

But the foreign journalists were not allowed to film the Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies attacked by crowds in the wake of the Mecca clashes.

Officials of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture accompanied the journalists on all interviews or when filming.

One Ministry official charged that Western journalists tended to distort Iran's image.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:55	Programme review
16:10	Moby Dick
16:30	Children's service
16:30	Scientific programme for children
16:50	Little Princess
17:15	Documentary
17:45	Asian Women's Handball Championship: S. Korea vs. China
18:25	Message from Iraq
19:10	Local family programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Seminar on local issues
22:15	Tomorrow's programme
22:20	Arabic play
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Religious talk and close down
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Bleu outre-mer (documentary on New Caledonia)
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Science World
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Together We Stand
21:00	Wild Flower
21:10	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "The Contender"
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 890 KHz. SW	
Tel: 77111-19	
07:00	Morning Show
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show Contd.
10:00	The Guita Gicals
11:00	News Summary
12:00	12:05 38 years of American Top Ten Hits
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Jordan Weekly
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumental/Old favourites
17:00	Special Feature
17:30	Music
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
19:00	Newsdesk/Music

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITION	
An exhibition of plastic art by Mohammed Al Khatib at the Banking Bank Gallery (until Sept. 15).	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre library .. 641520	
British Council .. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	
Geetha Institute .. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642033	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Husseini Youth City .. 6671816	
Y.W.C.A. .. 642551	
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 943555	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luvaidib. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luvaidib. Tel. 625383.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Apostolic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): preets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 675554.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811255.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (011) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:15	Amman (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:40	Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:45	Alsa Dhab (RJ)
10:50	Dhahran (RJ)
10:55	Sharjah, Bahrain (RJ)
11:25	New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:30	Geneva, Paris (RJ)
11:45	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:55	Istanbul (RJ)
12:00	Tripoli (RJ)
12:05	Rome (RJ)
12:05	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20	Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
10:15	Kuwait (add.) (KU)
12:00	Baghdad (IA)
13:20	Cairo (MS)
13:20	Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
14:35	Kuwait (KU)
15:45	Tripoli (LN)
16:10	Riyadh (SV)
18:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:25	Beirut (ME)
20:10	Rome (AZ)
20:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:25	Frankfurt (LF)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45	Aqaba (RJ)
09:00	Moscow (RJ)
11:45	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30	Albania (RJ)
12:30	Geneva, Paris (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:15	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:45	Istanbul (RJ)
13:45	Madrid (RJ)
15:00	Rome (RJ)
15:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:25	Baghdad (RJ)

21:00	Jeddah (RJ)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30	Kuwait (RJ)
06:20	Madrid (add.) (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20	Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
07:00	Frankfurt (LF)
07:00	Can. London (BA)
11:30	Kuwait (add.) (KU)
13:00	Baghdad (IA)
14:05	Cairo (MS)
14:05	Doha, Sharjah (GF)
15:35	Kuwait (KU)
15:40	Kuwait (LN)
17:40	Riyadh (SV)
21:00	Doha, Sharjah (GF)
22:30	Riyadh (add.) (SV)

PRAYER TIMES

04:40	Fajr
06:10	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:57	Dhuhr
16:15	Asr
19:04	Maghrib
20:25	Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates

<i>Local sell/buy rates in Jds</i>	
Belgian franc	89.6/ 90.8
Dutch guilder	165.2/ 167.4
French franc	55.7/ 56.5
Italian lira	25.1/ 26.1
Japanese yen (for 100)	237.3/ 241.7
Swedish crown	53.1/ 53.7
Swiss franc	225.7/ 229
U.K. sterling pound	136.1/ 137.6
U.S. dollar	339.5/ 343
W. German mark	188.1/ 188.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with slight increase in temperature; and the winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	17 / 30
Aqaba	23 / 36
Deserts	13 / 34
Jordan Valley	24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings:

NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends message to Sarney

BRASILIA (Petra) — Brazilian President Jose Sarney received a message from His Majesty King Hussein Thursday dealing with bilateral relations. The message was delivered to President Sarney by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, who is currently on a visit to Brazil. Brazil's foreign minister received Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of King Hussein.

Islamic cities group opens meeting today

IRBID (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the 10th session of the Islamic Capitals Organisation's administrative board will be held at Yarmouk University today. The board will discuss the organisation's general secretariat report on its activities and achievements during the year 1986 and its future plans. Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tabeishat said that a resolution passed by the 4th Organisation of Islamic Conference's meeting on encouraging links between Jerusalem and other Islamic capitals will be reviewed.

Sharif Zaid receives UAE air force head

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahayan, commander of the United Arab Emirates' air force, Thursday. The meeting was attended by Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Col. Fathi Abu Taleb, the commander of the Jordanian Air Force, and the UAE charge d'affaires and military attaché in Amman.

Al Bashir Hospital to build burn centre

AMMAN (Petra) — In a special ceremony today, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh will lay down the cornerstone for a new unit for the treatment of burns at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman. The JD 329,000 unit, to be built on 1,800 square metres of land, will include sections for general surgery and for plastic surgery and skin reconstruction.

Olive oil to flood market

AMMAN (Petra) — A Ministry of Supply source has said that olive oil will be available in large quantities. He added that the ministry will in the coming few days start supplying the local market with olive oil packed in one-litre glass containers which will be sold at JD 1.360.

Railroad conference to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third scientific conference on railroads will open here on Oct. 23 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the developments of railroad networks in Third World countries.

Iraqi minister ends visit after signing minutes

AMMAN (Petra) — The under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry, Usama Abdul Razzaq, ended up a several-day official visit to Jordan and left for Iraq Thursday, after signing the minutes of the seventh meeting of the Iraq-Jordanian Joint Committee held in Baghdad in February. Mr. Abdul Razzaq took part in the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Industries (JJIC) held in Amman Monday and Tuesday, as well as heading the Iraqi side to the follow-up meetings, which concluded here Thursday.

The minutes of the Baghdad meeting included a review of the economic and commercial relations between Jordan and Iraq. It also stressed the need to increase the volume of trade.

The minutes also included a review of the technical cooperation between the Iraqi Phosphate Corporation and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. The Iraqi side expressed readiness to supply Jordan with any quantities of phosphate fertilisers it might need.

The two sides further agreed to hold a meeting for officials to coordinate the specifications for commodities to be traded in implementation of minutes of a meeting signed in May 1985.

Signing the minutes of the meeting for Jordan was Dr. Mohammad Saqqar, under secretary of Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

S. Arabia not to back down in confronting Iran

(Continued from page 1)

their relations with Iran if it did not observe a U.N. call for a ceasefire with Iraq by Sept. 20. "Look at the Arab League — Syria, Algeria, Aden (South Yemen), their closest buddies, did not support them," the source said.

Saudi Arabia also wanted to ensure the safe return of 11 of its diplomats still in Tehran. So far, Iran was refusing to guarantee their safe passage to the airport, he added.

A score of Iranian diplomats remaining in Riyadh and Jeddah would be given the same treatment as the Saudi diplomats in Tehran, he said.

The source said Saudi Arabia was providing vital operational assistance to United States naval forces escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf.

"In the areas where you (the Americans) needed help for operational reasons, you may assume help was given," he said.

Manila reasserts control after fierce coup attempt

(Continued from page 1)

for the mutiny. By nightfall, government forces were regaining control and had retaken virtually all the installations seized by the rebels.

Media panel urges steps against anti-Arab bias

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab information ministers concluded their 24th session here and adopted a number of recommendations designed to bolster joint Arab information work on both the Arab and international arena.

The resolution stressed the importance of Arab cooperation on sharing information and emphasised the importance of using Arabsat, the Arab owned satellite, for the promotion of education and culture.

The meeting also approved the formation of a subcommittee, set up by the Standing Information Committee, to discuss and evaluate the performance of the Arab League information teams. The subcommittee will be headed by Kuwait's information minister and will include Jordan and a number of Arab states.

The Arab Information Council also stressed the need for condemning terrorism in all its forms and has resolved to mobilise Arab information resources to counter the anti-Arab media campaign.

It also resolved that duplex lines be set up among Arab news agencies to facilitate the transmission of news and photographs.

The council further recommended the formation of a pan-Arab television production company. The Arab League's information department is to arrange for the participation of Arab television production companies and the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) in setting up this company.

The council expressed solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defence of its land and in its efforts to establish peace.

In a statement, the council condemned the riots in Mecca, staged by Iranians and called on Iran to accept the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 598 on ending the war.

In an inaugural speech, Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi said that Arabs want an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war in accordance with the principles and provisions of the international law. He added that information is a vital means for gaining international support for Arab causes.

Jordan's delegation to the meeting is headed by Information Minister Mohammad Khatib, and includes Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia and the permanent representative of Jordan to the Arab League, Talal Sata'an Al Hassan, director general of the Jordanian Company for Television and Cinema Production, Jawad Maraga, and the director general of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Ali Safadi.

In a speech he delivered at the closing session of the Tunis meeting, Mr. Khatib stressed the need to deal with pan-Arab problems through a united Arab media strategy to be worked out by all information ministers attending the gathering.

The absence of a pan-Arab outlook has allowed the Zionist to capture international media, to deceive international public opinion and to portray the Arab struggle against the occupation as a form of terrorism, said Mr. Khatib.

"We have to prove to the world that we are a nation with a rich heritage. We have to denounce all forms of terrorism and to explain to the world the difference between terrorism and the right of the people living under occupation to struggle to regain their lands," said the minister.

He called on all the Arab League's information offices throughout the world to intensify their efforts and work to support the Arab cause in the international media arena.

JUST head returns from U.S. tour

IRBID (Petra) — The president of the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST), Kamel Ajlouni, recently concluded a working trip to the U.S.

He said Friday that his university conducted academic cooperation agreements with a number of American universities.

In an interview with Petra, Dr. Ajlouni said his three-day visit to the U.S. was aimed at bolstering relations between JUST and American science universities. He returned home on Wednesday.

During his stay there, Dr. Ajlouni visited a number of scientific and educational institutions working in the areas of medicine,

engineering, and agriculture, including the universities of Washington, Johns Hopkins, and the Scientific Society for Engineering.

He said that an agreement was reached between JUST and the University of Virginia through which cultural and scientific exchange visits will take place between both universities' staff members. Under the agreement, the University of Virginia also agreed to receive a number of JUST scholars who want to continue their higher education in the area of engineering.

Another scientific and cultural exchange programme was signed between JUST and the State University of Alabama.

He added that the University of California has agreed to receive a number of Jordanian medical and engineering students seeking further specialisation in post-graduate courses.

An existing agreement between JUST and the University of Iowa was renewed. Under this accord, both institutions will exchange staff members, and the University of Iowa will receive a number of JUST scholars studying clinical medicine, dentistry, and nursing.

The University of Milwaukee has also agreed to offer assistance to JUST's faculty for medicine and nursing.

Solidarity with Iraq festival to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — A festival for solidarity with Iraq will be held at the Palace of Culture at Al Hussein Sports City Sept. 6 to mark the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war seven years ago.

The holding of this festival was decided upon during a meeting held Thursday at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, under the chairmanship of the minister, Khaled Al Haj Hassan, during which arrangements for the festival were discussed.

The event is in response to a decision taken by the Arab Labour Conference, held in Baghdad last March, which set aside Sept. 4 as an international Arab day for solidarity with Iraq, to end the Iran-Iraq war, and to establish peace.

Iran to inform U.N. of partial acceptance of call

(Continued from page 1)

Monday that it would be premature to consider an arms embargo until more time was allowed for Iran to respond to the order.

Khamenei renews threat

In the Gulf, meanwhile, Iran's president warned Friday that U.S. warships will be attacked if Iran's vital oil exports were threatened and Prime Minister Hussein Musavi called for an all-out war effort to defeat Iraq.

Amid a U.S. naval buildup in the region, Tehran Radio quoted President Ali Khamenei as saying that Iran does not want "to challenge the United States to a war in the Persian Gulf."

The radio quoted him as saying: "If the objective of the American presence is to allow the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian regimes' oil to be exported easily, but Iranian oil not to be exported, then we will not allow it, and no power will be able to prevent our retaliatory measures, whether America or any other power stands in our way."

Egyptian minister arrives for joint firm meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister for planning and economic cooperation, Kamal Al Jazouiri, arrived here Friday on a two-day official visit to Jordan.

During his stay, Dr. Jazouiri will cochair the sessions of the founding committee in charge of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company.

The formation of \$50 million company was earlier endorsed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which is cochaired by the prime ministers of both countries.

In an arrival statement at the Queen Alia International Airport, Dr. Jazouiri praised the economic relations between Jordan and Egypt and said the holding company "would increase the prospects of economic cooperation" between the two states.

He added that an agreement was earlier reached on selling up various subsidiaries for tourism, fishing, producing red meat and seeds. These subsidiaries will be part of the joint holding company and will be based in either Amman or Cairo.

Khatib praises Princess Basma's special work

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib has praised the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) for its role in assisting the special education staff in learning how to diagnose mental retardation cases, and identify slow-learning children.

In a message addressed to Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairwoman of the board of directors of QAJSWF, Dr. Khatib said the GUVS highly appreciates this pioneering step of holding special courses for special education personnel.

Dr. Khatib also thanked Princess Basma for the close and fruitful cooperation between the fund and the educational institutions, and expressed hope that such a cooperation will provide increased and better learning opportunities for handicapped.

Jordan welcomes lifting of ban on W. Bank exports to EC

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan said Friday it sees an Israeli decision to lift a ban on export of produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the European Community (EC) as a positive move since it would help the economy of Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

"We support any step that will further enhance the possibilities of opening up direct marketing outlets for their (farmers of the occupied territories) agricultural products," said Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories with Israeli exporters.

Israel had, in the past, insisted that exports, mainly of citrus from the coastal strip of Gaza and the West Bank, be exported to the EC and other countries through Jordan or via the Agricultural Marketing Company of Israel (AGRESCO), which controls prices, quality, and delivery schedules.

The Israeli decision, announced on Thursday, followed a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and seven Palestinian leaders and notables from the Occupied West Bank.

According to a Reuters dispatch, Israel has agreed to allow such exports via a company to be established in the occupied territories.

The Jordanian government supports any step that allows the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to get "some of their surplus directly over the Mediterranean," without having to transport it through Jordan's port of Aqaba or the airport.

Mr. Dudin told the Jordan Times on Friday, "They will be able to send their products through themselves — direct deals with the EC — and not to get them over there through Israeli commission agents," said the minister.

Mr. Dudin's remarks reflected comments made earlier by the minister of agriculture, Marwan Hmoud, and other senior officials, who said such a step was welcomed by Jordan since it would also help better the economic conditions of the Palestinians living under occupation.

Farmers of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are facing serious marketing problems because of surplus production coupled with a

low demand for their products. They also complain that the Israeli marketing company is paying very low prices for their produce, and worry that export schedules of their products are structured to prevent competition with Israeli exporters.

Jordan has been purchasing 50 per cent of the occupied territories' seasonal produce, which was either marketed here, and in other Arab countries, or sent to the EC, together with similar Jordanian products, through the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO).

"When we allow 50 per cent of the occupied territories' produce into Jordan — either to be consumed or marketed — it is not because we need these items, but because we are offering them a market outlet," said Mr. Dudin.

Observers monitoring Israeli policy in the occupied territories believe that the move followed pressure applied on Tel Aviv by the 12-nation EC. Israel's main farm products market, the EC has pushed for an end to Israeli control over Palestinian exports, and for an improvement in conditions of people living under the Israeli occupation.

European diplomats welcomed the Israeli move in principle, but said much would depend on how it was implemented.

There was no precise information available Friday on the total annual amount of fruits and vegetables grown in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, nor on the total amount of produce marketed in Jordan or sold to other countries via the Kingdom.

The Israeli ship 300,000 tonnes of oranges and 100,000 tonnes of other citrus products a year to the EC, independent experts say, at most, Palestinian exports might amount to around 25,000 tonnes.

"There is no real qualitative or price competition," one expert said.

Some members of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-

wing Likud bloc, including Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, oppose direct exports on political grounds, fearing a boost to Palestinian nationalism, and competition with Israeli growers.

However, experts quoted by Reuters said the small volume of produce from the occupied territories is no threat to Israel's massive citrus exports.

In his meeting with Palestinian leaders and notables from the occupied West Bank on Thursday, Mr. Peres urged them to help him convince Israelis of the need for an international peace conference.

"He wanted us to transmit the idea to the Israeli public that we — both peoples — need peace," said Omar Al Masri, a businessman from Nabulus.

He said Mr. Peres urged the Palestinians to publish articles in the Israeli press calling for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"We should go to Jordan and tell them... to direct themselves to Israeli public opinion to convince them, because 50 per cent of the Israeli public is for peace — the other 50 per cent needs encouragement," Mr. Masri said after the meeting.

Mr. Peres has been unable to break a deadlock in the coalition government over an international Middle East peace conference, which is opposed by Mr. Shamir and other right-wingers.

Israeli opinion polls have shown the public about evenly split between those favouring a U.N.-sponsored peace conference and those who oppose such a forum.

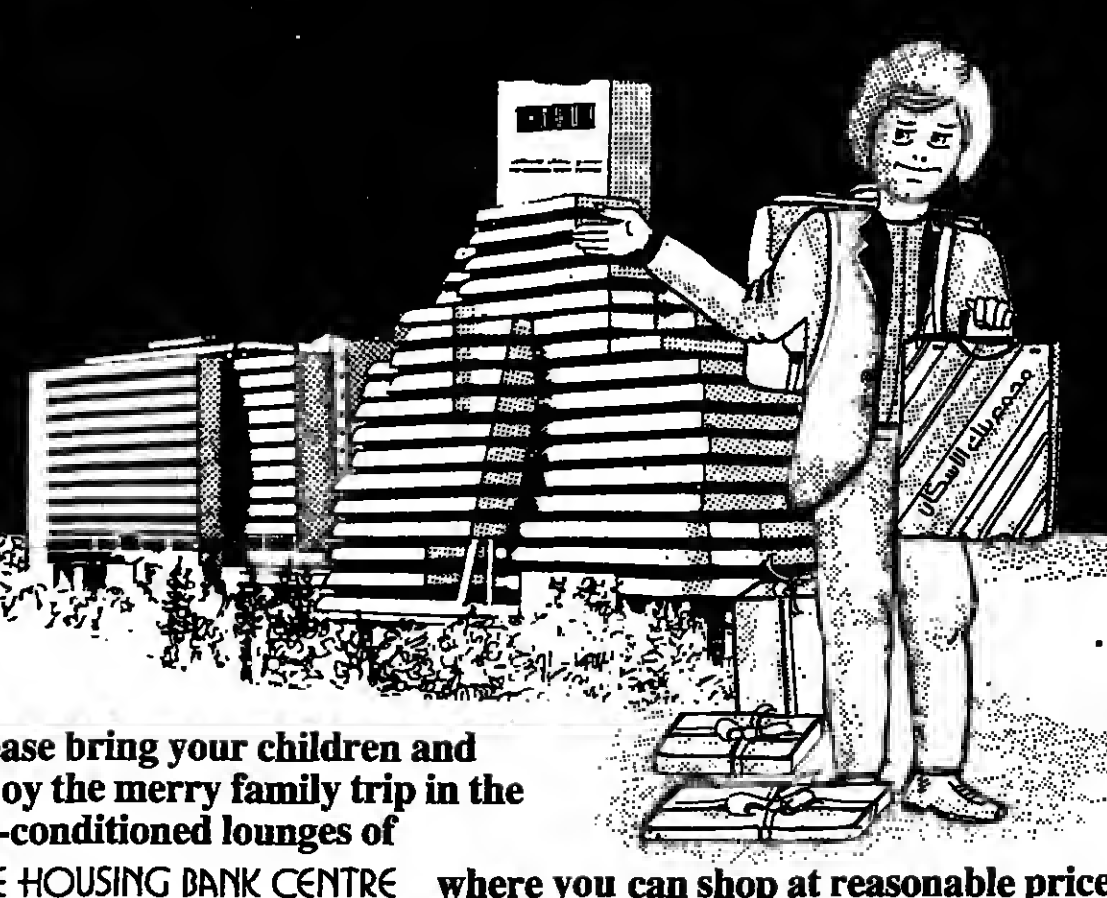
Hamzeh graduates paramedical class

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said that Jordan is interested in expanding education for its citizens so that they can contribute to the development of their country and serve their communities.

Addressing a graduating class of paramedical school students in Amman and Irbid, which was held at the Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture Thursday, Dr. Hamzeh said that "Jordan is planning its educational system to serve communities' requirements and is concentrating on fields which can absorb the graduates."

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Iran's reply is clear

THE Iranians received a recent resolution adopted by the Arab League Council shelling civilians in the Iraqi city of Basra, thus reflecting Tehran's intention of continuing the futile war Iran is fighting against its neighbour Muslim country. While the Iranians are not respecting the resolution of the Arab League Council, they are also working on creating sensitivities among Arab countries by expressing happiness at the resolution, saying that it constitutes a victory for them because the original draft resolution was stronger and stricter but was amended as a result of the pressures exercised by their friends.

Notwithstanding this double-sided reaction, the cool reception of the Arab League resolution and the shelling of Basra reflect the evil Iranian intention which has not changed at all. This also implies that the Iranian regime will not accept the U.N. Security Council resolution which calls for an immediate ceasefire between the two warring countries, and consequently the Arab League resolution will not be honoured during the grace period the Arab League Council has granted to Iran. With this situation in mind, it would be better for Arabs to be prepared from now to counter the Iranian challenge, thus paving the ground for reaching a consensus before the next Arab foreign ministers meeting is held.

It should be emphasised that if Arabs fail to take the right action at the right time, they won't have anybody to blame except themselves because by then the credibility of their resolution will be tested.

Al Dustour: Iran not interested in ties

THE Iranian rejection of the recommendations adopted by the Arab League Council, as pronounced by Iran's deputy foreign minister, comes to stress anew that Iran usually procrastinates and changes its positions, thus making it clear that Iranians do not have firm positions. The Iranian rejection does not serve the issue of peace in the region and will not contribute to saving the bloodshed.

It seems that the deputy foreign minister has misunderstood the flexibility of the Arab League Council resolution and giving Iran a grace period to reconsider its position. The council has meant to give the Iranian leaders an opportunity to reconsider their calculations and positions and to consider the position seriously in a serious endeavour to end the bloodshed and to give the rulers of Tehran the initiative to avoid further havoc and bloodshed.

The interest of the Arab countries was to give the Tehran rulers an opportunity to resort to reason and logic and to let them govern their stands vis-a-vis peaceful efforts. They should note that such an interest on the part of Arabs was the only reason behind delaying a resolution calling for a boycott on Iran.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanese paying a high price

THE thousands of hungry people who took to the streets of Beirut few days ago to protest the killings and the barriers separating eastern Beirut from its western part achieved nothing through their organised march. Those who have a good knowledge of the Lebanese crisis can foresee what the situation could be after 12 years of destruction and fighting. However, whatever the predictions of such people could be, they represent nothing for those who look for a mouthful of food. Such starving people who fill the streets of Beirut pose a real problem. They represent the injustice done on a people who was destined to belong to a crisis not of his own making and not sizeable with his resources.

The Lebanese people have been paying a heavy tax for 12 years, yet no glimpse of hope is in sight for the starving people, whose problem is linked with the political crisis in Lebanon. Therefore, and as long as the solution to the Lebanese crisis is out of sight, the starving people should not continue to suffer.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Far-reaching dimensions of peace prize

THE Dag Hammarskjold Award was presented to His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday, honouring him for his wisdom, keenness and efforts to bolster world peace. Needless to say, this honour for the King implies far-reaching political dimensions which actually were embodied in the academy president's speech upon presenting the award to the King. He said the King was endeavouring to arrive at peace in the land of peace where the Palestinian people are suffering from injustice and have been transformed into victims because of the lack of peace. This open statement represents an outright condemnation of those who try to obstruct the path of peace and openly and clearly refutes allegations and false statements by the Israelis that the people under Israeli rule live in harmony and peace.

King Hussein said that Jordan believes the solutions for problem plaguing the Middle East require a total commitment to the principles of international law and the principles of the United Nations by all concerned parties. This of course applies to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the ongoing Iran-Iraq war as well as the situation in Lebanon. Jordan is totally committed to peace, and the award comes as an affirmation on the part of the international community of its support for the King and Jordan in their endeavour. The award is also a clear indication that the world community is no longer condoning Israel's pretexts and excuses for not accepting the call of reason and the peace bids.

Al Dustour: Jordan's efforts recognised

THE Dag Hammarskjold Award given to His Majesty the King Wednesday clearly highlights the prominent position of Jordan among world nations, thanks to the wise leadership of the King and his peace-oriented policies. The award is a remarkable present given to this small country with its limited resources, and it is a manifestation of world support for the Kingdom's efforts designed to achieve peace and justice in the Middle East. The award came as a natural outcome of King Hussein's endeavours worldwide, seeking peace for the Middle East and its people. It is presented to the King who dedicated his life for achieving peace and to Jordan which has been striving under the King's leadership to help implement the principles of justice and the charter of the United Nations organisation.

The King has been genuinely and relentlessly working for the establishment of peace through his worldwide contacts and his talks with different world leaders. He has been striving to end all forms of tension and war from this region and bring back to it the elements of stability and security. The King's efforts were stepped up in the past few years and his endeavours gained momentum and won response and approval and also appreciation by all world leaders working for peace.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

The importance of religion

TO ENQUIRE whether religion is an important factor in development is a legitimate question. We have seen that religion has always played a very major role in most societies of the world, even in the most advanced industrialised modern societies. It is, therefore, not inappropriate to enquire whether Islam, the religion of the vast majority of the Arabs, is a hindrance to development. Two observations should be kept in mind: First, Islam, as a system of thought, like other major religions, attempts to regulate not only man's relationship with God, i.e. the matters of 'ibadat, worship, but also attempts to regulate man's relationship with man through the Shariah — legislation based on man's understanding of God's revelations. This attempt at creating a social ethic, a code of conduct to be followed by men and societies is not then, a unique feature of Islamic thought or action. Once again, even in Europe and America, Protestant, Catholic, and other strands of Christian thought continue to be offered as alternatives to agnosticism whether communist or not. Christian political parties, trade unions, newspapers of all types continue to offer an alternative to non-believing socialist-communist thought.

Second, those who claim that Islam is a hindrance to development in most cases do so out of ignorance of Islamic thought or out of a lack of proper understanding of it which, as we have emphasised, is an important force just as Christianity continues to be an important force in Western societies, albeit with some

variations. It is as though they are trying to substitute one simple explanation for another: substituting a single materialistic interpretation of culture and history with an equally single, one-sided spiritual, religious interpretation. The truth is, of course, neither in one nor in the other, but is most emphatically more complex, and thus certainly lies elsewhere.

Thus far still cultural recipients, we in the Arab World have come to accept or denounce some of the interpretations of our life, mainly in a linear fashion. We either accept and are flattered that anyone cares enough to write about us or we immediately entrench ourselves in futile self-defence, either based mostly on a literature of apologetics or on the idea that Islam encompasses all knowledge, all sciences, all elements of progress.

Islam needs no proof of verification nor does it need this type of mediocre defence. It holds its own along with other great ideas not because of its defence by either the great or not so great, but because it continues to be a living, dynamic force whose vitality and response need no substantiation. Because of our lack of self-confidence, a state that was developed over the past few centuries of decadence, we have come to accept challenges even to our very inner thoughts and soul when presented by non-Arabs and non-Muslims while denying the same privilege to ourselves; even the slanderous and malevolent writings of certain so-called experts like John Laffin whose major objective is the distortion of our

image and everything decent in our life.

Yet, in spite of all that, a dialogue has, over the past few decades, been developing among ourselves. Sometimes very bold, very challenging and to some very condemnatory like the writings of Ali Abdul Raziq, Khalid Mohammad Khalid, Jalal Sadeq Al Azmi and others. The religious establishment has of course its own conservative while the writings of fundamentalists, the late Hassan Al Banna, Al Hudaibi, and now Shaikh Al Qardawi, Shaikh Al Sha'rawi, and Hassan Al Turabi offer their own side of the story. Somewhere in the middle are the ideas offered by M. Amarah, M.A. Al Jabiri, Fuad Zakaria, F. Al Huwaidi among many others. Here in Jordan a healthy dialogue has been carried on over the past few years by, among others, Shaikh M. Shaqrah, Ali Al Utom on one side and Kamel Al Sharif, Abdul Rahman Mango and Iyad Kattan on the other. Basically, however, the dialogue within the Islamic community of intellectuals maintains the traditional dialogue between the mu'tazilah with their emphasis on rationalism and the conservative asha'rites, with their emphasis on strict interpretation and adherence to the text.

Both agree, however, that al din yusr, religion is to provide ease, comfort and solace to life. The disagreement is on the limits. Often the dialogue calcifies around two opposite poles, an entrenchment that tends to obfuscate, over-simplify and accuse thus eliminating serious rational consideration.

England and the U.S. in Palestine: A Comparison

This is the second part of an article reprinted from the Link magazine. The first part, which appeared in the Thursday/Friday (Aug. 26/27) issue of the Jordan Times, covered British-Arab agreements in Palestine. The third part — conclusions — will be published in Sunday's (Aug. 30) issue of the Jordan Times.

U.S.-Arab agreements

INITIALLY, around the time of the Balfour Declaration, the Arabs had a strongly positive image of the United States. The U.S., unlike Europe, seemed anti-colonial, an image buttressed by their political elite's knowledge of American history. That elite saw the United States as a country that won its independence from a colonial Britain. More to the point, Americans, once victims like themselves of colonial oppression, had won their independence through a glorious revolution. If the big powers wanted to set up mandates in the Arab east, and if the Arabs could not stop them from doing this, Arab preference was to have the anti-colonial and revolutionary Americans as their mandatory power.

President Woodrow Wilson's reputation as a moralist and a decent man enhanced this American image. His performance at the Paris peace conference confirmed the image Arabs had of America. Arab political leaders, particularly Prince Faisal, the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, knew Wilson was trying to limit the ambitions and greed of the European powers. Wilson's self-determination policy appealed to them, raising their hopes at about the time Faisal felt he was being betrayed by the European leaders. (Of course, Wilson had his troubles in the U.S. and this probably prevented him from following up on his promises which the King-Crane Commission tried to live up to.)

Much later, during World War II, the United States became embroiled in Zionist politics. President Roosevelt was under strong pressure — from his wife, Eleanor, among others — to approve the Zionist plan to establish a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. What countered that pressure significantly, some would say, was a February 14, 1945 meeting between Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia aboard the U.S.S. Quincy in the Eastern Mediterranean. Roosevelt argued that because the Jews had suffered so much at the hands of the Nazis, they deserved a secure homeland in Palestine. King Saud observed that in his culture the criminal paid the penalty for his crime, not the innocent: if land should be set aside for Jews, it should be in Germany, not Palestine. Before the meeting ended, Roosevelt would promise the king that "he would do nothing to assist the Jews against the Arabs and would make no move hostile to the Arab people." (9)

President Harry Truman ignored his predecessor's promise to the Saudi monarch (and to other Arabs as well). Truman pushed hard for the idea of allowing 100,000 Jewish refugees to immigrate to Palestine, and he rejected the recommendations of an Anglo-American fact-finding committee — whose U.S. members he had nominated — that Palestine's government be placed under international guarantees, thereby according "to the inhabitants as a whole, the fullest measure of self-government."

This political game of supporting the Zionists while calming the Arabs in the most deceptive ways would continue to the present time. Only President Dwight Eisenhower refused to play the game. He, at least initially, attempted to follow a neutral policy, though pro-Zionists in Congress and Jewish organisations made it extremely difficult for him to stay neutral. Nevertheless, Eisenhower insisted, in the aftermath of the Suez war, that Israel withdraw behind its international borders in spite of Ben-

Gurion's insistence to keep some of the land Israel had occupied during the war.

During the 1960 elections, both Presidents Kennedy and Nixon were pro-Zionists in their efforts to win the support of American Jews and the powerful pro-Israeli lobby. Kennedy reneged on a promise he made to the Arabs in May 1961 to work towards "a just and peaceful solution" of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Israelis, already opposed to any mediation effort, preferred direct negotiations, knowing well that Arab leaders would be placed in jeopardy if they dared to do this. The American (and the French) members of the U.N. Conciliation Commission were too pro-Zionist to be helpful. The American government had not been supportive of the commission's work, preferring quiet diplomacy to bring about peace. The Kennedy Administration did nothing to live up to its 1961 promise to the Arab heads of state. Not even "quiet diplomacy" was seriously pursued.

Further betrayal of the Arabs took place under President Lyndon Johnson. When, on June 27, 1967, Israel annexed Jerusalem and enlarged the city's boundary to include areas not previously part of it, the United States — and, indeed, the rest of the world — rejected Israel's action. The U.S., however, failed to adhere to its official policy, refusing to pressure Israel without concessions from the Arab side. It also abstained on two U.N. resolutions declaring the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem invalid. On July 4 and July 14, Resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V) were respectively approved by very large majorities with no opposition. U.S. abstention was tantamount to acquiescence to Israel's violation of international law.

Just before the June 1967 war, Johnson supported Israel on the question of the Gulf of Aqaba, promising that the U.S. would not allow the Arabs to invade Israel. On May 29, the New York Times reported that the president was extremely sympathetic to Israel's position. Despite Egypt's offer to make compromises on the Gulf issue, as evidenced by President Nasser's willingness for talks, Israel declared it would not accept any compromise. Fearing that Israel's image in the U.S. might be tarnished, Johnson advised Israel not to act hastily. The president was not, however, against Israel's use of military measures against the Arabs, provided these measures were employed later.

After the war, the U.S. introduced a resolution (S/7952/Rev. 3), making Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories conditional upon certain Arab concessions. The Johnson administration had violated its own official policy, which it — and previous administrations — had accepted; namely, that the U.S. was committed to respect and preserve the territorial integrity of all countries in the Middle East. (Clearly, Israel's concurrent attack on the U.S.S. Liberty (whose flag was clearly visible to Israel's war planes) and the killing of 34 and wounding of 75 of the ship's crew did not deter the Johnson Administration from its unwavering support for Israel's overt aggression.)

In the aftermath of the June war, the U.S. supported Israel's rejection of the United Nations' concept of total withdrawal from the conquered territories. Further, it introduced a resolution (A/L.520) requiring settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a condition for Israeli withdrawal. The draft resolution never



"Your Majesty will also doubtless recall that during our recent conversation I assured you that I would take no action, in my capacity as chief of the executive branch of the government, which might prove hostile to the Arab people"

— U.S. President Roosevelt to King Saud, April 9, 1945

came to a vote; it was clear that no other Western power — not even Britain and Canada — was willing to support Israel so unreservedly. France, for instance, condemned Israeli aggression very strongly and insisted on total withdrawal before other issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict were dealt with.

Johnson's extreme enthusiasm for Israeli gains in 1967 must be

seen as an important factor in the 1973 war. His hawkish attitude towards the Arabs created an atmosphere of hopelessness on the Arab side, while the Israelis came to believe they could do whatever they wished to do without serious repercussions outside the Middle East simply because the U.S. would acquiesce.

President Richard Nixon did not help the situation either. Although quite aware of the strategic and economic importance of the Middle East, he remained too occupied with Vietnam to do anything constructive. Peace efforts in the Middle East were made, but the U.S. would not pressure Israel into making concessions. Then the 1973 war occurred, after repeated warnings from Egypt's Anwar Sadat and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria. Although Assad became the first Syrian leader to accept U.N. Resolution 242, the U.S., which helped bring about disengagement at the Sinai front, proceeded to neglect Syrian interest by allowing the Israelis to continue the status quo at the Golan Heights. This meant more Jewish settlements and a temptation to annex the territory. Also, the Nixon Administration thought of the Middle East as an adjunct to its Soviet policy. As such, it helped polarize the conflict along patterns of super-power global competition.

The best era, relatively speaking, in American Middle East diplomacy was the Carter years. More than his immediate predecessors, Carter yearned for peace in the Middle East, and out of personal conviction as well as national interest, Carter brought about the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt. As William Quant explains in his authoritative work on the agreement, however, Carter did not initially expect or want such an agreement, (10), preferring instead a comprehensive peace that

would include Israel, the Arab countries and representatives of the Palestinian people.

Zionist pressure deterred Carter from reaching his goal. Also, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's ideological zeal and Sadat's unpredictability were problems for Carter. Prof. Fred Khouri reports that Carter often complained about Zionist-Israeli influence, as did Cyrus Vance, his Secretary of State. (11) Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's national security advisor, recalls Carter saying:

"We are financing their conquest and they simply defy us in an intransigent fashion and generally making a mockery of our advice and preferences. (12) On Oct. 1, 1977, the U.S. and the USSR agreed to a plan for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict that would, inter alia, recognise the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people and require Israel's withdrawal "from territories occupied" in 1967. Predictably, the pro-Israel lobby and its U.S. supporters, assisted by much of the American mass media, denounced the agreement, sending waves of protest throughout the American public. According to one analyst:

"Carter was so shaken by the great furor aroused by the considerable political damage this could cause him domestically that he decided to make a hasty retreat by disassociating himself from the statement as quickly as possible. (13)

Carter also made statements that the Palestinians should have a "homeland." But then came Israel's 1978 invasion of Lebanon, and all talk of a Palestinian homeland ended. (During the invasion Israel used American weapons, including the horrible cluster bombs, in a clear violation of American laws and U.S.-Israel agreements.)

The nadir in Arab-American relations has come during the Reagan years. Reagan's retreat from commitments made to the Arabs have occurred in the following areas:

1. Initially he allowed Secretary of State Alexander Haig to make the United States "hostage" to the policy of Israel, largely accepting Israeli policies as consistent with American interests. When Israel annexed the Golan Heights, in December 1981, the United States did not insist on Israeli withdrawal and took no serious steps to reduce the amount of aid to Israel. One cannot help but recall Israel's

and got out of Lebanon. Israel quickly rejected the plan. Begin left no room for negotiation, bluntly declaring that there would be no withdrawal from occupied territories. In fact, his government revealed plans to settle over a million Jews on these territories.

Unfortunately, the Reagan administration ignored its own plan and allowed it to die out. Instead, the U.S. began to advocate "direct negotiations" as the only way to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Even in the area of conflict resolution, the U.S. was now taking an identical position as that of Israel.

In November of 1983, Israel and the U.S. entered into cooperative agreement in the military and political fields. In 1985, they signed an agreement to phase out trade duties between the two countries, making Israel the first state to receive such advantages from the U.S.

5. Although the U.S. still does not recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel nor Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem, it has moved a few steps closer toward sanctioning both. Under pressure from Israel and its American friends, the U.S. decided to require its consulate in West Jerusalem to report directly to Washington. Previously its consulate was tied to the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, following the usual pattern in other countries where consulates reported to embassies.

The consulate in Arab Jerusalem, technically accredited to Jordan, remained separated from its twin sister in West Jerusalem after the occupation. Its employees were American and Arab. No Israelis were allowed to serve in it and Israelis were required to go to either West Jerusalem or Tel Aviv to obtain services.

Today, the consulate in Arab Jerusalem has close relations with the consulate in West Jerusalem. It hires Israeli Jews as employees and provides the usual services to Israeli citizens. Since the Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale promised in 1984 to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, it may not be long before Reagan or his successor will make the change.

6. The Reagan administration also promised the Arab World that it would maintain neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. This promise was broken. At the urging of Israel, the Reagan White House sanctioned arms sales to Iran. Even when Secretary of State George Shultz objected, pointing out that Israel's foreign policy aims are not identical to America's, (14) the pro-Israeli voices within the administration prevailed. The United States and Israel shipped vital armaments to Iran, while feeding false military information to Iraq. And once again the U.S. government had to send an official to the Middle East to reassure moderate Arab leaders of its continuing support.

The reassurances are wearing thin. Clearly, Israeli foreign policy — and now U.S. foreign policy — is to fragment the Arab World, setting Arabs against Arabs. Fragmentation, however, is not in the interest of the Arabs, nor of the United States. The worst victim of fragmentation is peace: a fragmented people fight back without considering the means or the consequences. That's why, with each broken promise by the West, moderate Arab leaders and states lose more credibility among their people and in the region as a whole.

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Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

MUCH has been said about the recent regulations by the Council of Higher Education establishing the tawjihi examination as a universal standard by which people are deemed suitable to pursue whichever careers. Every once in a while, we are faced by the emergence of a controversial law, regulation or practice with hardly any prior notice, not to mention debate. There is no doubt that this new regulation has, like many controversial ones before it, caused public uproar. I am afraid, though, that it too will pass and become the rule to follow, just like others before it. Memory is too fresh to forget such past regulations as rules of admittance to the first secondary, which have been implemented despite wide and

strong public disapproval.

This, and other regulations, laws and practices issued by the government to regulate society undoubtedly stem from a sincere desire to serve the public good. One does not question the motives behind such controversial and far-reaching decisions. Rather, what is questioned is whether the result intended will be actually achieved if and when these regulations are put into effect.

Everytime such a thing happens, one cannot escape feelings that a lot of decisions directly affecting one's life and that of the society one lives in are taken without the society's full input. The feeling of frustration that many citizens have in this country

can neither be overstated nor ignored. It stems from an inability to share in their country's future despite their will, ability and hard work.

The real problem, to me, lies beyond this one decision, law, regulation, or whatever one chooses to call it. For whether it be this particular regulation, the increase in airport fees, or a police officer humiliating a driver who dared argue with him, the executive, pure and simple, has too much power.

Unfortunately, the executive branch of government — from cabinet members to the junior employee handling telephone bills — feels, explicitly or implicitly, intentionally or unintentionally, that it can implement its own version

of what is right without having to consult with anybody else.

The problem is not that of a particular employee, department or government. The problem is that we have failed, after 40 years of independence, to develop a system of checks and balances. We have failed to produce a system of checks where the government's position on issues is not necessarily the one that is implemented. We have not been able to create a meaningful and working balance between the executive and legislative branches of government. That balance is heavily tilted in favour of the executive branch.

During the questioning of Oliver North in the Iran-contra hearings, Senator George

Mitchell (a Democrat from Maine) came out with an interesting but powerful statement. "The American public," he said, "has the right to be wrong." The underlying message is clear. Even if government thinks, rightly or wrongly, that its decisions are the best, more informed, and better researched, the public still has the right to debate these decisions. In the end, the net result is that issues are better discussed, and decisions are, on the whole, better than what is presently being practised.

In the Iran-contra hearings, the secretary of state, the secretary of defence, and the attorney general, to name a few, had to come before Congress and answer for their

actions, knowledge, or inactions.

We do not have to adopt the American or any other system. We can develop our own. But we clearly need a system of accountability that everyone knows and abides by, under the auspices of law.

I have often written about the incompetency of our present Parliament. I strongly believe, though, that the biggest challenge facing our Parliament today is to assert itself and work towards the development of such a system. This is clearly a mission that the government itself should be genuinely interested in and enthusiastic about.

The prime minister's decision last week not to issue supplements to the budget

without prior approval from Parliament is a step in the right direction. I hope that it will be followed with more steps to demonstrate the willingness of government to work with Parliament on such important matters.

While the executive in the short run clearly is content about the powers it enjoys, it is not in the best interest of the country for such a situation to persist. Unless government, which holds most of the cards in its hands, is ready to work with Parliament to slowly relinquish part of its powers and develop a proper, stable and enduring system of checks and balances, Jordan's democracy and its strength will constantly be under the shadow of doubt.

Patrick Lama — gifted Palestinian composer

This report was moved by the Kuwait News Agency on May 13, 1987

By David Walsh

WASHINGTON — Palestinian composer Patrick Lama's first U.S. tour is being marked by piano recitals of original music at some of this country's most prestigious concert halls, with Thursday's appearance at the celebrated "Barnes of Wolftrap" in nearby Virginia being a first for any Arab musician and composer.

The soft-spoken, Jerusalem-born Lama said in an interview with KUNA this week that he had hoped also to perform his work in New York, but that his sponsors talked of "potential difficulties" for a Palestinian there. His American Tour is sponsored by the International Conservatory of Music.

Speaking in his Washington hotel before leaving to practice on a local friend's grand piano, the 47-year-old artist laughed when asked if he had been a child prodigy. "No — I had to work and study a lot," he said.

"And work he did, first with his father, Augustin, (who then was composer-organist at Jerusalem's Holy Sepulchre Basilica), and later in Paris.

Lama received the coveted "superior diploma of education" in piano composition and performance from the world-renowned Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris.

For two years his professor was Henri Dutilleul, a French "maestro" whose work has been recently embraced by Mstislav Rostropovich, world-class cellist and conductor of Washington's National Symphony Orchestra.

So ingrained were his work and study habits to become, eventually, that Lama spent seven years just researching musical forms before starting to compose. Some of his works last perhaps a quarter-hour but take six months to prepare.

Although he naturally "absorbed" the native Arabic and Palestinian musical culture while growing up in Jerusalem, Lama's early musical education was primarily classical European.

Some, however, are "sort of adaptations of classical Arabic melodies — very old, very ancient. I try to put these pieces into a new form," he explained, citing one which was no longer played as written but had great instructional value.

"It's just written in books (for people studying Arabic music) to see how it's written, to see the form and the structure."

"I liked it, and I wanted to let it be known... not only to Arabs but even to foreigners. How is Arabic music structured? What are the forms, the modes, the melodies?"

Lama said many — Europeans especially — "think Arab music is all improvisation. They can't imagine that some... (is written) beforehand," intended to be played as originally composed.

Frequently, he continued, Western listeners are amazed that Palestinians like himself can play "Western technique on the piano" in addition to national or folkloric music.

Other pieces, however, are "really free" in the sense of those written by Americans, Frenchmen or others more in the Western tradition, he insisted.

"Apparently... I say 'apparently,' it has nothing to do with the orient," he stressed.

"But sometimes people feel there are hints (of) or a spirit from the orient, as if the composer can't be French or American — he should be (probably) from the Orient or influenced by the Orient, you see."

"So there is an indirect influence" in his music from the old Arabic themes, Lama concluded. "Why don't we (composers) have the right to combine, take the best of the old and new and put into new, modern forms?" Lama asked rhetorically. "It doesn't hurt the traditional music."

He does not see his role, though, as go-between for the Orient and the Occident.

"I don't have a goal of bridging (the two cultures), no. In my head I don't think about it," Lama declared.

"The only thing — I am an Arab... I have different influences, mainly from the West... but also Indian and Arab music, lots of different things." He said he builds his own style from them.



Patrick Lama on stage at the Wolftrap theatre, Washington, D.C., on May 14, 1987

Lama said artists must, above all, be authentic, citing as an example the work of Hungarian composer Bela Bartok. "He studied all the music of his country and put it into new forms. This is Bartok's music, but it is from Hungary," he said.

Lama showed evident respect for Bartok's compositions, humbly suggesting that "one day" he hoped to "reach Bartok's level."

"Until now I consider myself to be at the first stage of this work," he told a KUNA correspondent, "because I'm trying to find my way... my (own) style... structures that pertain to me."

This means, he said, "new combinations, new (musical) codes, and new rhythms which I feel with (his style)." Only by "introducing new things," Lama believes, "can we advance in art."

This creative process began for Lama about 20 years ago with his first compositions, but he added that the current phase (melding the old and the new) started within the last six years.

It was under Professor Dutilleul that Lama made a discovery that was to leave an important — and possibly indelible — imprint on his work.

Having been deeply impressed with the music of 18th century German composer Johann Sebastian Bach (which his father often played on the organ), Lama years later found "some resemblance between Arab music and Bach."

He had now commenced his formal studies of the music of his native land — "theory, listening, and everything" — and noted "the linear lines" — of both forms. "Bach has very linear (struc-

ture)," he said, "of course with harmony and many voices, but always following a melody. Arabic music (similarly) is based on melody."

Lama appeared startled at the suggestion that perhaps Bach had had an Arabic ancestor, answering the jest with a delighted laugh.

While he prefers to compose for himself, Lama sometimes writes for others. One recent challenge — again combining Oriental and Western forms — is putting to music the exquisite words of an Iraqi poet with four instruments and a mezzo soprano voice.

Such an "experimental" approach to composition, said Lama, has proven frustrating to many, and thus it is rarely pursued.

"The problem is not only to combine the instruments. When people listen to such music, I don't want them to see that they are (different from one another). No. They have to listen just to music. If they feel the music, it's okay — it's a success," Lama said passionately.

Although touched in his formative years by the old European masters, Lama today credits modern European artists like Igor Stravinsky for guiding his direction.

Stravinsky (about whom Lama has written a book) exemplified what Lama terms "modern harmony, free forms" during the 1920s and 1930s. Stravinsky's "wonderful" symphonic piece, "rites of spring,"

Asked if he, a Palestinian, was moved to direct his talents to composing resistance music for the anti-Israel guerrilla fighters, Lama exclaimed that he was not. "For me music is an art, you see. I am not ready to do something for immediate effect, or respond for some political need, to please people."

Instead, said Lama, "if I succeed artistically and musically, I succeed for our (Palestinian) cause. If someone succeeds in his work as an advocate or a lawyer or something, it's excellent for us. I don't say that it's bad. But if you succeed in your field, it will be the best thing you can do..."

Wherever he goes, Lama said, he identifies himself as Palestinian, regardless of the hostility his ancestry sometimes provokes in the West.

Queried about his unusual surname, Lama said that his family name was originally the Arabic nickname El Ama — "the blind." But some individuals split off from the main body around the turn of the century, travelling from Palestine to Latin America.

Owing to natives' problems with Arabic pronunciations, the Palestinian artist added, the name was changed to "Lama." As a result, some family members use "Lama," others preferring "El Ama."

Lama will be in the U.S. for two weeks, appearing at Boston's New England theatre, Washington's Wolftrap Thursday and Los Angeles' Schoenberg Hall at the University of California May 20.



Patrick Lama on the eve of his performance at the New England Conservatory, Boston, on May 13, 1987

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South Korea snatches Asian women and men handball championships

Kuwait's men to take on Japan over 2nd position — a ticket to Seoul

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — S. Korea won the first Asian Women's Handball Championships on Thursday after downing China 34-24 in a heated final. The Chinese team, nevertheless secured a berth in 1988 Seoul Olympics. Japan finished third, Syria fourth, and Jordan took the fifth position. South Korea also won the men's fourth championship by beating Kuwait 36-31 in Thursday's final playoff.

The Korean team displayed an offensive performance and took advantage of fast tricks to penetrate the Chinese defence. The Koreans defended their net with a 5-1 formation, leaving the Chinese little chance to equal the score.

In the men's finals on Thursday, Korea maintained their lead

and trounced Kuwait with a 36-31 score to win the fourth Asian Handball Championship for men. Kuwait, the only Arab team to enter the finals, still has the chance to compete for the second position and a qualification ticket to Seoul when they meet with Japan Saturday.

In another match, Syria lost

28:20 to Taipei, which exploited the Syrian team's weaknesses in speed and fitness to their advantage. Syria now holds the eighth position. Taipei's standing will be decided after a scheduled match against Jordan on Saturday. China beat Qatar 21-15, leaving Qatar in sixth place. Qatar's defence was remarkably strong at the beginning of the game, allowing no penetration to its net for the first seven minutes, but the Chinese team put on a good show through the quick manoeuvres of the wings and weakened the defence of the Qatari team. The Chinese team secured fourth place.

In a statement given to the Jordan Times earlier, Mr. Ahmad Estahieh, the executive director of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF), classified both

the men's and women's teams into three groups.

The first group consists of Korea, China, Japan and Taipei. The second holds Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, and the third is made up of Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Nepal.

Mr. Estahieh also said that "the current championships are considered to be from the most advanced, especially for the teams from the first and second groups." He added that it is the first time in three years the championship had eleven teams participating.

Mr. Estahieh predicted that the championship is going to move forward in the coming years, especially as the AHF has decided to hold an Asian Handball Championship for youngsters.

WBC titleholder makes 6th defence against Villasana

LOS ANGELES (R) — Azumah Nelson of Ghana has worked up little enthusiasm for the sixth defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight title on Saturday, against top-ranked challenger Marcos Villasana of Mexico.

The 12-round fight at the Olympic Auditorium is a mandatory defence required by the WBC and a re-match of the February 1986 encounter when Nelson beat Villasana with a majority decision.

"I'm not excited about this fight," said Nelson. "The only reason I'm fighting Villasana again is because the WBC requires it."

Villasana is the only man to have gone the distance with Nelson in any of the title fights.

The two boxers were due to clash for a second time last March

7. But the challenger injured his left hand during training and was replaced by ninth-ranked Mauro Gutierrez of Mexico.

Nelson, who won the title in December 1984 when he stopped Puerto Rican Wilfredo Gomez, easily knocked out Gutierrez in the sixth round.

The 29-year-old champion, who has a record of 25 wins and one loss, has not fought since then.

Nelson's only setback in his professional career came in his first attempt to win the title in July 1982, when he was knocked out in the fifth round by the champion, Salvador Sanchez of Mexico.

Villasana, with a career tally of 32 wins, five losses and one draw, has been away from the ring for nearly seven months because of his hand injury.

Connors, Cash and Gomez win Hamlet's 1st round

JERICHO, N.Y. (R) — Second-seeded Jimmy Connors, third-seeded Pat Cash of Australia and fourth-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador won first-round matches in the \$150,000 Hamlet Challenge Tennis Tournament on Thursday.

Connors said he played "a near perfect match" in beating fellow American Jimmy Arias 6-0, 6-3 in 52 minutes.

Cash, the Wimbledon champion, beat Amos Mansdorf of Israel 6-2, 7-6 with the aid of nine service aces.

Gomez beat Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 7-5, 6-4.

Unseeded American Paul Annacone, whose past is full of upset victories, added another by eliminating sixth seed Joakim Nyström of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 in 62 minutes.

Connors and Cash both said they were close to their best form heading into next week's U.S. Open.

"If I play like that I can't complain," said Connors, whose 105 career tournament victories include five U.S. Opens and two Wimbledon. "I've been playing like that for four months and just need a little bit more to get into the next plateau."

Connors hasn't won a tournament since October, 1984, but has been in numerous finals, including three this year. "I've had my chances but didn't capitalise on them," he said.

Cash, who lost in early rounds of two tournaments since winning Wimbledon and starring for Australia's Davis Cup team in July, easily swept past Mansdorf in the first set, allowing only two points in four service games.

Atletico Madrid poses new challenge to dominant duo

MADRID (R) — After a flurry of summer signings including Portuguese striker Paulo Futre, Atletico Madrid have emerged as the side to watch when the Spanish soccer season kicks off on Sunday.

Atletico finished seventh in the First Division last season and lost their chance of a place in Europe when they were beaten in the Spanish Cup final by San Sebastian's Real Sociedad.

But now they look the most likely challengers to champions Real Madrid and their traditional Catalan rivals Barcelona.

The Atletico Madrid revolution has been the work of proper-

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wallace sacked as Seville's coach

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — Spanish First Division soccer club Seville has said it had sacked their Scottish coach Jock Wallace. Club sources said Thursday one of the factors in the decision, made after a five-hour meeting late Wednesday night, was the language barrier Wallace never fully managed to overcome. Wallace joined Seville last season after managing British clubs Glasgow Rangers and Leicester City. Seville have been disappointing in warm-up games for the new season starting on Sunday.

Cricketer to pull out of World Cup

KARACHI (R) — Batsman Javed Miandad threatened to withdraw from Pakistan's team for the cricket World Cup later this year when he returned from London on Thursday, the official AFP News Agency reported. He said he would pull out of Pakistan's team unless the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) satisfied his unspecified personal conditions. Miandad said he would only play on his own terms and conditions and criticised board officials for their treatment of him during Pakistan's tour of England where they won a test series 1-0.

Police to stop fans' bonfires in Calcutta

CALCUTTA (R) — Thousands of extra police will deploy at Calcutta's Eden Gardens cricket stadium for the World Cup in November to stop fans who have a tradition of celebrating good performances by lighting bonfires. About 3,500 police instead of the normal few hundred will try to control a capacity crowd of 93,000 expected for the contest's Nov. 8 finals.

Lendl to face Moir in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Two-time defending champion Ivan Lendl will play South African Barry Moir in the opening round of the U.S. Open next week, while top-seeded Steffi Graf will face Bettina Fulco of Argentina in women's play. Pairings for the two-week tournament were announced Thursday by the United States Tennis Association. Play begins Tuesday at the National Tennis Centre.

Komok brothers clock best times in RAC speed tests

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Brothers Yanat and Ahmad Komok drove to victory Friday by securing the first and second positions respectively in speed tests conducted at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RAC).

The test was conducted in two parts, with 62 entries, three of them females, driving both in the morning and the afternoon.

The RAC honoured the participation of the women, a rarity lately, by giving a prize to the woman who had the best time among the three. The prize went to Pervin Mseis who drove a

Toyota Corolla.

Sported in their 1980 red Renault turbo alternately, Yanat, 29, clocked the track with a time of 1:44.94 in the afternoon bettering his winning time in the morning session of 1:45. His brother Ahmad also improved his second place score of the morning by almost two seconds with a time of 1:50.18 in the afternoon session.

Mazen Khabbazi, driving a Peugeot 205 GTI, came in third, trailing less than a second behind Ahmad with a time of 1:51.00. Fourth place went to Hasan Alaeid, driving a Porsche Carrera, with a time of 1:53.04.

Fifth place went to Nabil Karam, driving an Opel Manta 400, only a fraction of a second behind Alaeid with a time of 1:53.38. Haitham Mufti, came in sixth 1:53.85, he was driving a Nissan 240 RS.

Amr Belbeisi, driving a Fiat Uno Turbo, came seventh with a time of 1:54.15 minutes while George Khayatt came eighth with a time of 1:55.36. Khayatt was driving Nissan 240 RS.

Aouita yet again centre of attention

ROME (R) — Said Aouita, the 26-year-old Moroccan who is fast redefining middle-distance running, is yet again the focus of attention just two days away from the start of the World Athletics Championships.

Aouita was unable to compete in the Zurich Grand Prix on Aug. 19 because of an inflamed nerve in his left calf and the problem appeared serious enough to cast grave doubt on his participation in Rome.

However a week ago Aouita announced that he had fully recovered but now, apparently, he had a fresh problem.

"I am hesitating, but only about which race to run," Aouita told the Moroccan daily L'Opinion. "I am interested in the 5,000 and 1,500 metres — but alas they are being run on the same day."

The position was hardly clarified when the entry list for Rome was released this week.

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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR ZARQA RIVER BASIN PROJECT RIVERBANK PROTECTION (SUB-PROJECT NO. 3)

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is seeking the services of a consultant to assist in the implementation of structural protection of the banks of the Zarqa River against the erosive action of floods.

The river segment to be protected includes parts of the stretch between Es Sukhna and King Talal Dam. Flexible structures such as gabions and reshaping of the bank are the proposed measures. The project implementation period is estimated at three years and shall include detailed design, tendering, and construction.

Jordanian consultant is foreseen, or a joint venture of foreign or Arab consultants, with a Jordanian firm as the leading partner.

Interested consultants who have had successful experience in design and supervision of large riverbank protection projects are invited to submit prequalification information. The information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:-

1. Detailed information on the firm's prior experience with particular emphasis on riverbank protection projects using flexible structures.
2. Qualifications of professional staff relating to the specific skills required.
3. Jordanian or Arab consultants who wish to associate with foreign consultants shall include complete details on the qualifications of their proposed associate.

Interested consultants are requested to submit their qualification data in English not later than 12:00 (noon), Sept. 30, 1987 to:
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Interested insurance companies which have experience in handling similar projects are invited to obtain copies of the forms of invitation to tender and the tender special conditions from the field personnel officer in the Field Office HQ, Tia' Al Ali near Rashid Tia' Secondary Boys School, behind Utaihi Gas Station, P.O. Box 484, Amman. These tender documents are available at JD 20, which is non-refundable.

Tenders must be submitted with their tenders a bank guarantee of JD 40,000. Tenders not supported by this bank guarantee will be neglected. The agency will notify successful and unsuccessful tenderers of its decision with respect to their tenders as soon as possible after the tenders are opened. It reserves the right to cancel the tender, to reject any or all tenders, and to award the contract without disclosing the reason or reasons therefor.

Tenders will be accepted in sealed envelopes to be put in the tender box in the office of general services officer at the agency's office at the above address up to 11:00 hours on Saturday 26, September, 1987.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6255/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3186/91	Canadian dollar
	1.8190/8200	West German marks
	2.0490/0500	Dutch guilders
	1.4990/5000	Swiss francs
	37.80/85	Belgian francs
	6.0800/50	French francs
	1318/1319	Italian lira
	142.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.3925/75	Swedish crowns
	6.6725/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.0085/0160	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.50/456.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities stood mixed in late trading but showed a slightly firmer bias on the back of shortcovering with dealers noting low volume ahead of the long holiday weekend and next week's U.K. balance of payments data.

Operators were highly nervous on Friday because of Tuesday's U.K. economic data for July which is feared will show another substantial U.K. current account deficit. This would rekindle fears of a build-up in inflationary pressures, dealers added.

Despite Friday's firmer bias prices were nervous following an early 11 point fall on Wall Street with the FTSE 100 at 1430 GMT up 4.0 at 2,249.8 after a high of 2,259.7.

Estimates for the July current account figure range from a deficit of £50 million to as much as £300 million. Such a figure would follow on from a provisional shortfall of £168 million in June and May's unexpectedly large £500 million gap.

The market has for some time been concerned that the apparent U.K. consumer boom coupled with high bank lending could be leading to a worsening British trade position.

Dealers also pointed to the background factor of the August U.K. money supply and bank lending figures, due on Sept. 18, which they said was impairing nervousness.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Business can present some complications early today, so be on the alert. Keep a cheerful and optimistic attitude and you can rise above any of these minor setbacks.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't let a message from a distant acquaintance disturb you and disrupt important activities. Keep your poise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't let a responsibility interfere with planned entertainments. A stubborn associate will respond to flattery.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't permit yourself to become involved in an argument between a family friend and an associate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It may take longer than you think to perfect a talent, but it will be worth it in the long run.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't spend too much on entertainment. Set up a budget which will suit your needs for the future more adequately.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid a troubling home situation by making some important visits. Be practical, and use your spare time wisely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Put economizing measures into effect, as you'll need some extra money soon. Rest up tonight and do some reading.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Enjoy a hobby this evening even if a friend will not join you for some reason. Be careful in motion today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Less talk and more planning are the keys to gaining personal success. Be more willing to confide in your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Before planning any recreation, discuss the arrangements with your friends. Don't let small setbacks irritate you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure that you don't take any risks where outside activities or public work are concerned. Be cautious.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may find it hard to get your ideas across this morning, but keep at it and later all will work out right.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very interested in getting at the truth in facts or figures and would do well in such professions as investigation, business, medicine or law. Learning may be slow at first, but later your progeny will become quite absorbed in studies. Great success here.

Spain orders striking air controllers to boost services

MADRID (R) — Spanish authorities Thursday ordered Barcelona air traffic controllers to expand minimum services during a 24-hour strike on Saturday to avoid a repeat of airport chaos that affected thousands of holidaymakers last week.

A civil aviation spokeswoman said controllers would be required to handle all international charter flights and open one more route between Barcelona and the Balearic islands.

"There will be delays, but hopefully less than last week," she told Reuters.

Last Saturday's strike, with only four routes open out of Barcelona, caused misery for tens of thousands of tourists and flight delays of up to 20 hours.

Some 185,000 holidaymakers are expected to use Palma de Majorca airport this weekend, the busiest of the year.

A spokesman for Barcelona's 136 controllers, striking over a pay dispute, said the extra route would cut delays but would not ensure that all flights would run on time.

Controllers would meet Friday night and Saturday to decide whether to accept the mandatory expanded minimum services.

The civil aviation spokeswoman said very serious steps would be taken if they refused to obey. She said controllers could be sacked for breach of contract.

A spokesman for the West German charter firm Hapag-Lloyd said the extra route would greatly improve conditions over last Saturday.

Balearic hotel owners were meeting controllers on Friday to try to convince them to end the strike. State television said bookings on the islands fell by 25 per cent and 10 per cent were cancelled following last week's strike.

The president of the association of hotel owners in the busy Costa Brava resort of Lloret de Mar, Santiago Ontanon, told reporters the strike had given Spain a bad image and could sharply cut bookings for next year.

"Allowing another strike this weekend will set a very serious precedent. Controllers will strike again next summer if they know they can get what they want," he said.

Controllers would meet Friday night and Saturday to decide whether to accept the mandatory expanded minimum services.

The share fall of the dollar helped boost U.S. goods' competitiveness and the trade balance had begun to improve in real terms, although it remains deeply in the red.

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Profits of banks in Saudi Arabia continue to slide in first half of '87

BAHRAIN (R) — Provisions against doubtful loans ate sharply into first half earnings of Saudi Arabia's joint-venture banks while uncertainty over the kingdom's still sluggish economy led to a further steep decline in lending.

Bankers in the region said full 1987 earnings at several banks looked set to fall once again, sliding further from peaks in 1982 when Saudi banks were among the most profitable in the world.

One banker said: "There is every prospect 1987 profits will decline again... those banks which have been very prudent may see the benefit work through in 1988."

Of Saudi Arabia's nine joint-venture banks operating on a Western calendar year, six have already published first half results. A seventh, Saudi British Bank, is due shortly.

Bankers said the earnings figures made familiar reading:

— Loan provisions continued high after domestic lending turned sour with the world oil price slide in the mid-1980s.

— Banks remained reluctant to engage in new lending, with the volume of outstanding loans down by as much as 27 per cent.

— A drive to cut expenses and maximise new sources of revenue was underway, including "one-off" operations to raise cash such as the sale-and-leaseback of bank premises.

Of the six banks which have reported, three registered a de-

OPEC to consider stabilising oil prices

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto said Friday a special meeting of two OPEC committees in Vienna next month will consider steps to stabilise world oil prices.

He forecast that prices would remain around \$18 a barrel until the end of the year but said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could still raise its benchmark in December despite a recent drop in spot rates.

OPEC President Riwana Lukman announced this week he would convene a meeting of the two committees in Vienna on Sept. 7 after a sharp decline in spot oil prices of around \$3 a barrel.

Prices fell after being pushed up by fears the Gulf conflict could be widened.

"We will discuss what steps will have to be taken to recover price stability and appeal to members to stick to their quotas," Dr. Subroto told reporters after the signing of a new gas contract with Japan.

He said the fall in spot prices should encourage the 13 members of the group to keep production in check.

"We expect the weakening of the spot price will make OPEC members who produced more than their set quotas restrict production so that the price of oil can be stable," he said.

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U.S. banker stresses need to slow soaring foreign debt

ALPBACH, Austria (R) — The United States, which has moved from being a net creditor to the world's biggest debtor nation in a matter of years, must rein in its soaring foreign debt, a senior U.S. central banker said Thursday.

"No one can have an inexhaustible credit line with fixed terms, and the same goes for nations," said Mr. Robert Heller, one of seven governors of the Federal Reserve.

"Growth of our external indebtedness at anywhere near the pace of recent years is clearly unsustainable," he said.

Mr. Heller said the U.S. trade and balance of payments deficits ballooned when the dollar surged in the mid-1980s. That hit U.S. firms by making their exports too expensive while they had to compete with cheap imports at home.

In the process, the United States moved from being a net creditor of \$140 billion in 1981 to

a debtor, owing about \$265 billion to the rest of the world at the end of 1986.

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Peanuts



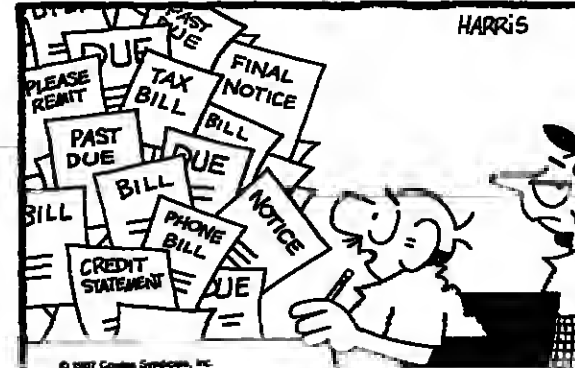
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



18,000 S. African miners fired; 31,000 more face dismissal

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — The nation's largest mining company threatened Friday to dismiss another 31,000 striking black miners unless they returned to work.

Anglo American Corp., the company worst hit by the 19-day-old strike, said it fired about 18,000 gold and coal miners Thursday for defying back-to-work orders.

Anglo, which fired 7,000 strikers last week, said 31,000 miners faced dismissal if they do not return to work by various deadlines Friday and Saturday.

The company has said it is hiring short-term replacements, but declined to release any figures. Anglo, which produced more than 39 per cent of South Africa's gold last year, employs about 180,000 black miners.

Among those dismissed Thursday were 3,000 men who staged an 18-hour sit-in more than a mile underground at Anglo's Western Deep Levels gold mine. Anglo did not say why the men staged the sit-in, but the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said the men were forced underground Wednesday night by mine security.

The strikers were brought to the surface Thursday afternoon, given their final paychecks and driven off the mine compound in buses, some of the miners said. The mineworkers' strike, which began on Aug. 9, is a legal

walkout, but under South African labour law, companies may fire workers if they do not show up for work.

The mass dismissals came after union members voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to reject an industry proposal that offered slight improvements in benefits but no additional pay.

The union said it would accept a 27 per cent pay raise, instead of its previous demand of 30 per cent, but the Chamber of Mines refused to alter its already implemented increase of 15 per cent to 23 per cent. The country's annual inflation rate is 17 per cent.

In other developments, the country's largest black labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, said Thursday it was considering a

national strike and other "solidarity action" unless the mineworkers' wage demands were met.

Jay Naidoo, General Secretary of the 750,000-member Congress, said international trade unions might be asked to order members not to handle South African coal and gold.

In another development, the South African government said Thursday it was assuming powers to censor or close down for up to three months newspapers which it regards as mouthpieces for radical groups.

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha told parliament an existing array of media censorship laws was inadequate and new emergency regulations would be published by the government.

Contras offer to have U.S. military aid held pending peace efforts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leaders of the Nicaraguan contras proposed to President Ronald Reagan that further military aid to their movement be held in a special account pending the outcome of peace-making initiatives.

After a meeting with Mr. Reagan and the president's top aides, including Secretary of State George Shultz, Alfred Cesar Aguirre announced that the contras were willing to have "lethal" aid hang in limbo until at least Nov. 7. That is the ceasefire deadline envisioned in the Guatemala City peace plan.

Mr. Cesar said that the contras asked that the U.S. government "go ahead and approve new aid for the Nicaraguan Resistance after the 30th of September."

"The aid will contain a humanitarian part that will be disbursed immediately and continuously without interruption, and a lethal part that will remain in escrow" unless President Daniel Ortega's government "does not comply with the peace plan objective" by Nov. 7.

"This is a concrete action of support by the Nicaraguan Resistance, to the peace plan, which is exactly what we prefer," Mr. Cesar said. He said the response of U.S. officials was "favourable, but without a final decision."

Chief Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater, standing on the dais with the contra figures, said, "We find the resistance proposal to be a constructive, forthcoming approach that we can generally support. However, we will need to consider the technical aspects of the proposal before making a final decision."

Mr. Fitzwater said no funding figures were discussed. He indicated that White House officials had been taken by surprise by the contra announcement, telling reporters: "We just heard it a few minutes ago, when they presented it to the president."

Mr. Cesar said that "if we achieve the democratisation of Nicaragua and we achieve the peace contemplated in the plan... we will ask the government of the United States to use it for feeding the Nicaraguan people" and for other humanitarian purposes.

At the outset of that meeting, Mr. Reagan told the contra leaders "we have much to thank you for."

Contra leader Adolfo Calero quoted Mr. Reagan as telling the resistance leaders that "we won't let them (the Sandinistas) get away with a fake democracy."

Mr. Reagan, seated with members of the directorate of the rebel force in the Century Plaza Hotel, said, "the political and military pressure you've applied, I think, is showing results."

"The Sandinistas have now signed a peace agreement based on democracy in Nicaragua," he said. "Without the freedom fighters, they will have no incentives to implement the (reform) measures they have said they will implement."

The six members of the civilian directorate governing the Nicaraguan Resistance organisation travelled to Los Angeles to confer with Mr. Reagan, their most visible supporter, after signalling a willingness to see U.S. military aid suspended in the interest of peace.

Japan seeks funds to counter Soviet threat

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's Defence Agency said Friday it needed more weapons and equipment to counter what it termed a Soviet military build-up in East Asia.

The agency's annual report said Japanese forces should be armed with advanced equipment such as over-the-horizon radar, air defence naval vessels and multi-purpose fighter-bombers.

"It is obvious that the Soviet Union has been persistently strengthening its military might in the area in terms of both quality and quantity," the report said. "This fact not only subjects the area to a tense international military situation, but also poses an increasing latent threat to

Japan," it said. The report, in the form of a white paper submitted to Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, said the Soviet build-up was continuing despite Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's declared intentions to pursue a policy of peace.

It also indicated that limits on the number of military units and amount of equipment Japan's defence forces are allowed to possess, established in 1976, might be abandoned.

Soviets conduct exercise off Japan

Meanwhile a fleet of 25 Soviet

naval vessels has been sighted off Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, the Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) said Friday.

It appeared to be the largest Soviet naval exercise conducted in the area since World War II.

An MSDF spokesman, speaking on condition he not be identified, said the Soviet fleet was curving Thursday in the Sea of Japan toward the Sea of Okhotsk for an apparent exercise spearheaded by the 37,100-ton aircraft carrier Novorossiysk and the 22,000-ton battle cruiser Prunze. He said in the past, Soviet fleets manoeuvring off Japan had a maximum of eight vessels.

Whitehead: 'Glasnost' could improve ties with Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — A top U.S. official said Friday that any fundamental democratic change fostered by Moscow's new policy of "glasnost" or openness, could mark a new, warmer era in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead told a U.S.-Soviet conference progress had been made since Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev became the Soviet leader two years ago.

"We in the U.S. government do not doubt that something very significant and potentially very positive could be happening in the USSR," he said.

"On the contrary, we recognise that this is a vital moment in the evolution of your country," he told the 200 Soviet participants. "Our scepticism has more to do with whether glasnost will lead to real openness and ultimately to real fundamental democratic change, lasting change."

The answer to this question will clearly affect in a significant way the future of U.S.-Soviet relations," he said.

He said that if the potential of glasnost were achieved it would improve greatly relations between the two countries.

Arms control talks now apparently heading toward the elimination of medium-range missiles would go on to scrap thousands of other missiles, he said.

Pakistani political leaders detained; 32 die in riots

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani troops and police Friday detained political activists after extending a curfew imposed following ethnic riots in which more than 30 people have died, officials said.

Police did not give any number for those arrested in the Karachi and Hyderabad riots, but political leaders in hiding told local newspapers that at least 30 leaders and activists were being held.

They said fathers, brothers or mothers were arrested if police did not find the person they were seeking.

The raids were conducted early Friday after a curfew imposed on Karachi's Faisal Colony area on Wednesday was extended into fresh riot areas, covering more than half of this port city of seven million people.

Hundreds of troops in battle dress and police entered the city's

hundreds of mosques and made the curfew announcements through loudspeakers, warning the people "do not come out of your houses."

Twenty-four people have died in Karachi since clashes between Pashtuns and Mohajirs erupted on Wednesday. Eight were killed in the nearby city of Hyderabad, where the rioting spread Thursday, hospital doctors said.

A Mohajir organisation, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), asked its supporters to hold protests Friday in observing what it called "black day."

A spokesman for the MQM claimed Friday that at least 60 people were killed, more than 200 were wounded and about 150 shops and houses set ablaze in the riots. Police have not confirmed the figures.

Mortars fired at Tokyo imperial palace

TOKYO (AP) — At least three homemade mortar projectiles were fired at the imperial palace, but none exploded and there were no reports of injuries, police said.

The metal projectiles landed near a dormitory of the imperial household agency — in the palace compound about 700 metres (770 yards) from the palace — and in a park about one kilometre (0.6 miles) away, said police spokesman, who would not give his name.

The 86-year-old Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako

were away at their villa in Nasu, north of the capital, he added.

The projectiles were fired Thursday through a hole in the roof of a refrigerator truck that police believe was stolen, he said.

Witnesses heard five explosions at 8:20 p.m. (11:20 GMT), and the truck subsequently burst into flames, said the spokesman. He could not confirm reports that police had found a fourth projectile.

A passenger car in a parking lot about one kilometre from the truck burst into flames about an hour after the attack, and police

were investigating whether there was a connection between the two incidents.

The spokesman said the attack apparently was meant to protest the emperor's scheduled visit this fall to the island of Okinawa, a bloody battleground in World War II that stayed under U.S. administration after the war until its return to Japanese rule in 1972. It would be the first visit there for Hirohito, who shed his semi-divine status after the war and now is a constitutional monarch with no political power.

Soviet pilot reports near-miss with fighter over New York

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. aviation officials say they have found no evidence to verify a Soviet airline pilot's report that his plane was nearly hit by a U.S. jet fighter over the New York area.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Fred Farrar on Thursday declined to rule out that the incident actually occurred. But he said air traffic controllers noticed no aircraft near the Soviet jetliner on their radar screens, and a replay of the radar tape showed the same thing.

Soviet officials say the Aeroflot airliner was approaching New York's Kennedy Airport on Sunday when a near-collision occurred. The Soviet embassy in Washington has demanded an explanation.

Mr. Farrar said the United States will continue its investigation.

"We're not saying there wasn't something there. We're just saying that if there was, it didn't show on the radar," he said.

The Soviet pilot reported that the near-collision occurred Sunday over the ocean 32 kilometres south east of New York at an altitude of 5,500 feet (1,680 metres). The weather was clear at the time, Mr. Farrar said.

The pilot said a "military jet" had flown within 450 feet (135 metres) of his airliner, Mr. Farrar said.

U.S. officials gave Aeroflot representatives a copy of the tape of the conversation between the Soviet pilot and the Kennedy controllers, Mr. Farrar said. He said the tape gave no indication that a near-collision had occurred.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the Aeroflot pilot "noticed a fighter plane flying at the same altitude on a head-on course."

"The fighter then veered to the left at a high speed and passed at a distance of 50 to 100 yards from the airliner. The passengers in the airliner witnessed that very dangerous manoeuvre," he said.

Mulroney reshuffles cabinet

OTTAWA (AP) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney demoted one of his top Quebec cabinet ministers Thursday and brought two members of parliament into his cabinet.

Michel Cote, the industry minister whose department was criticised for sloppy management, was demoted to supply and services minister.

Treasury Board President Robert de Cotret replaced Mr. Cote as minister of industry and science and technology.

Deputy Prime Minister Doug Young, also the house leader responsible for guiding legislation through the Commons, becomes treasury board president.

Doug Lewis, Ontario member of parliament and Mr. Mulroney's parliamentary secretary, became a minister of state to aid the deputy prime minister.

In a brief ceremony at government House, Governor-General Jeanne Sauve also swore in Pierre Blais, a parliament member from Quebec, as minister of state for agriculture.

Veterans Affairs Minister George Hees became minister of state for senior citizens, on top of his regular duties.

Charles Mayer, minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, was given extra duties as minister of state for grains and oilseeds.

Former Supply and Services Minister Monique Vezina was made minister of state for transportation.

U.S. 'was ready to concede' during Cuban crisis

NEW YORK (AP) — In the final days of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, President John Kennedy was prepared to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey if the Soviets pulled their missiles out of Cuba, former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk says.

The concession did not have to be made because leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to a U.S. ultimatum and removed the missiles without an explicit link to the U.S. Jupiter missiles in Turkey, which were obsolete anyway, Mr. Rusk said.

The revelation was made by Mr. Rusk in a letter to a conference of experts on the Cuban missile crisis. The conference was held in

March in Florida.

The letter was reported in Friday's editions of the New York Times.

According to the letter, Mr. Kennedy "instructed me to telephone the late Andrew Cordier," a former United Nations official, "then at Columbia University, and dictate to him a statement which would be made by U. Thant, the secretary general of the United Nations, proposing the removal of both the Jupiters and the missiles in Cuba."

Mr. Cordier was supposed to put the statement in the hands of U. Thant "only after a further signal from us."

"That step was never taken and the statement I furnished to Mr. Cordier has never seen the light of day. So far as I know, President Kennedy, Andrew Cordier, and I were the only ones who knew of this particular step," Mr. Rusk wrote.

Mr. Rusk told the Times he disclosed the statement because "it seemed to me that it was an appropriate time to complete the record."

"It was clear to me that President Kennedy would not let the Jupiters in Turkey become an obstacle to the removal of the missile sites in Cuba because the Jupiters were coming out in any

event," Mr. Rusk said. Mr. Rusk said the idea "was not all that much of a big deal. It was simply an option that would have been available to President Kennedy had he wanted to use it."

But James Blight, the organiser of the conference and executive director of the Centre for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University, disagreed.

He said it was "evidence that President Kennedy, in the real dark hours of the crisis — there on the last weekend — was convinced that, first of all, war was likely if things continued on their present course, and, secondly, that he did not want war."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

U.S. to scrutinise all recent stamps

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. postage stamps found to have secret markings appears to have climbed to three, as the Bureau of Engraving and Printing pursues a detailed examination of all recent stamps. Linn's Stamps News disclosed the most recent case, in which a Swedish government engraver worked his name into the grass depicted on a stamp designed to honour World War 1 veterans. Czeslaw Slania was recruited to engrave the veterans stamp for the United States, according to the weekly newspaper of stamp collecting. Bureau of Engraving and Printing spokesman Larry Zenker said that he could not confirm the report. A detailed analysis of stamps printed by the bureau since 1980 is underway, Zenker said. In the most recent case, bureau engraver Thomas Hipschen was found to have placed his name on the band stamp pictured on a 1986 postage stamp issued to honour the hobby of stamp collecting. Earlier it had been disclosed that engraver Kenneth Kipperman had secretly placed a six-pointed Star of David in the beard of Bernard Revel, a Jewish educator pictured on the \$1 postage stamp.

Edinburgh to exhibit Egypt's gold

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — An exhibition of ancient gold treasures from Egypt early next year is expected to be the biggest crowd-puller in the history of the Scottish capital, Edinburgh civic officials have said. They said attendance at "Gold of the Pharaohs" at the city art centre should top the previous exhibition record of 235,000 people who viewed the "Emperor's Warriors" grave figures from Xian, China, in 1985. Insurance of around £27 million (\$43 million) has been placed on the Egyptian exhibits, according to the Edinburgh Evening News. Ahmad Abd Al Maqsood Heikal, Egyptian culture minister, will attend a news conference at the city hall to announce details of the exhibition, the only showing in Britain of the treasures.

S. American cocaine ring smashed

LONDON (R) — British police posing as drug dealers in the Netherlands have smashed a South American cocaine smuggling ring and recovered a shipment valued at (\$19.5 million). Ron Sagar, a chief superintendent from Wakefield in northern England, told reporters that his team of 12 detectives had spent two months infiltrating the drug gang in an undercover operation codenamed "Elk." The shipment of pure cocaine was found hidden in large wooden boxes on Monday at the Amsterdam docks. A Bolivian believed to have been a ringleader of the smuggling operation was arrested and is to stand trial in the Netherlands. "This arrest and the recovery of the drugs is of considerable significance," Sagar said. "We have broken this particular smuggling team, but there could well be others." He said the network was smuggling 500 kilograms of cocaine into world markets each week — worth about \$40 million (\$65 million). Sagar said investigation into the ring would continue, with further arrests possible.

Airliner, crew held in drug probe

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian authorities held an Air India airliner and its crew of 13 at Lagos airport after the discovery aboard of 32 kilograms of suspected heroin. A spokesman at the Indian High Commission said negotiations were still going on for the release of the aircraft and its crew who were detained after arriving from Bombay and Nairobi on Tuesday. "We have not yet been told anything officially about drugs," he said. But the News Agency of Nigeria reported that packages believed to be filled with heroin were found aboard and were taken for forensic analysis. If confirmed, it would be the biggest seizure of hard drugs in Nigeria, which has emerged as an important staging post for the narcotics traffic to Europe and North America. According to American embassy calculations, 32 kilograms of pure heroin would be worth at least \$25 million when sold on the streets of U.S. cities. Nigeria has been under intense pressure, mainly from Washington but also from some European governments, to tighten security at ports and airports to stem the flow of heroin and cocaine.

Soviet citizens to get cheque books

MOSCOW (R) — Consumers in the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics, are to get cheque books for the first time, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda reported. It said people in the republic, used to carrying large amounts of cash to do their shopping, could be issued from Dec. 1 with a book of 20 cheques for two years for paying for any industrial goods or consumer services. Pravda described the use of cheque books as a new form of payment, although one bank-guaranteed cheque could previously be arranged for a single expensive purchase. It quoted A. Burkov, head of the newly-formed Soviet Bank for Workers' Savings and People's Credit, as saying users would have to show passport details to protect other people from using their cheques. Soviet consumers do not have credit cards. Burkov said state savings banks in the republic would become branches where money could be drawn by cheque, and account holders would be able to draw money from savings banks in other Soviet republics. The newspaper made no reference to interest rates on money kept in the new cheque accounts. The interest rate on Soviet savings accounts is about three per cent.

Bullet ends jumbo sex rampage

BANGKOK (R) — A sex-crazed bull elephant was shot dead by police after it ran amok in a village north of Bangkok, killing two villagers and destroying a radio centre. Police said that Sidor, an eight-year-old wild elephant which had escaped from its owner in Lam Khao district, was urgently in search of a mate. "It was silly not to find a female elephant for him," a police officer said.

Thai elephants face trouble in Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — Elephants from Thailand that have been brought to Sumatra to help tame their wild Indonesian cousins are having trouble picking up the local elephant lingo, the daily Waspada has reported. Geusyuk Hasbi, a village chief in the province of Aceh, where wild elephants have been gobbling up rice, coconuts, bananas and other plantation crops, said the latest campaign using trained elephants and animal tamers from Thailand is doomed to failure. Waspada reported Friday. Hasbi, who said he had been dealing with elephants for the past 25 years, told the Sumatran newspaper that the host Indonesian elephants do not understand the trumpeting sounds of the Thai pachyderms. He said elephants are generally very "talkative" in their herds and therefore it was important to get the sounds they made right.

Edinburgh to host science festival

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — An International Science Festival, claimed to be the first of its kind in the world, is being planned by Edinburgh City Council as a regular event each spring, city officials say. They said each festival will have a theme. The first in 1989 will be on intelligent communications, dealing with humans, computers and robotics. The second in 1990 will be about food. "Negotiations are proceeding for a major exhibition about United States science to visit Edinburgh at Easter 1989," said councilman George Kerevan in a statement. He said the "Celebration of Science" would complement the world's largest arts festival, which the Scottish capital has staged for three weeks each August since 1947. City Hall hopes the science festivals will become major tourist attractions, and it plans a programme of science events next spring as a trailblazer. Scheduling has not been settled. Big companies already supporting the project include British Petroleum, Ferranti, International Business Machines Corp., Digital Equipment Co. and Mitsubishi Electric. City Hall said. Kerevan said festival conferences, exhibitions, demonstrations, science films and a science fair for amateur groups are planned to appeal to researchers, scientists, technologically minded businessmen and schoolchildren.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR EL-SABER
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DEAR MR. GOREN:

Q.—I am at a loss when I hold a freak hand in a competitive situation. It seems that whenever I double they make their contract when we could have bid one more and made it or sustained only a slight loss. And whenever I go on, we go down, sometimes doubled, when the opponents had nothing. I've searched through the books in our library for advice on the subject, but can't find much. What do you suggest?

—L.G., New York City

A.—There's one very good reason why you can't find much about freak hands in the bridge books—no one really knows what to do with them. Some like to lie in wait; others prefer to preempt to the maximum.

One key factor is the spade suit. If you own the master suit, life is much easier. That is because you can outbid the opponents without having to increase the level of the contract. As a result, you seldom need to make a doubtful opening bid with a fistful of spades; you can usually afford to pass and enter the auction later.

Beware of doubling the opponents when it is obvious that they are bidding on distributional hands and they have found a fit. In such circumstances, it is usually right to bid one more. Whenever you are in

doubt, try to buy the contract. I'm sorry I can't be more helpful. But don't let it worry you. Freak hands do not occur often enough for you to get gray hairs over them.

Q.—With all your years of experience, if you were to give one tip that would improve every player's game, what would it be?

—E.B., Tampa, Fla.

A.—That's easy: "Don't forget the word 'pass.' It's the magic word in many auctions." Bridge is a bidder's game, and many hate to pass at any stage in the auction. However, we should not be afraid to pass when we don't really have a bid. We will save thousands of points over the years.

And bear in mind that a pass is not always a weak bid. Indeed, in some auctions it is the strongest bid you can make. For example, consider this auction:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ 5 ♠ ?

Since North has shown a very powerful hand with his jump to game, this hand belongs to your side. A bid of five spades says you don't want to double the opponents. A double says you don't think you can make five spades. A pass by you is the strongest of the three actions. It is forcing and it leaves open all options.